Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

Thursday, April 9, 2015 | Read by more than 56,000 people | Price when sold 60p

EYE IS ON FUTURE AT COLLEGE

The college on Hagley Road

Report by Andrew Turton

A NEW £5 million college campus has officially opened in the Black Country.

Stourbridge College has modernised its main campus at Hagley Road with a stylish new building created for a fresh generation of learners. The site has centres of excellence for engineering, health and social care and early years.

During the grand opening, guests saw students hard at work in the new science and IT laboratories which are part of the revamped A-level suite.

A range of events took place at the opening of the campus, which is part of Birmingham Metropolitan College.

Performing arts students celebrated Stourbridge College through the years and music students provided background entertainment.

Margot James, who is defending her seat in Stourbridge, performed the official opening and unveiled a glass sculpture in the new reception area which was created by artist, Allister Malcolm of Broadfield House Art Museum.

Iris

The piece, called The Vision, is based around the iris of an eye. The artist said he was inspired by his determination to follow his dreams.

Head of Stourbridge College Wendy Stevens said: "Today is the realisation of our ambition to create the very best in teaching and learning facilities in the Black Country.

"Students and staff are absolutely thrilled to have moved into new classrooms with state of the art IT technology and bespoke facilities for engineering, health and social care and early years.

"We now have a real presence in Stourbridge town centre with a fantastic landmark building which is providing a real draw for local students and employers.

"Our aim is to build on the legacy of the college and help more local people realise their dreams," said Miss James.

"It has been really exciting following its progress over the past year and it's an amazing investment for Stourbridge.

"Undoubtedly, the college boosts our local economy by ensuring young people and adults are equipped with the right skills to fill gaps needed by local employers, but I'm especially impressed with their commitment to ensuring people also have the right employability training to get into work."

Stourbridge College has roots in 160 years of education and history in the Black Country.

Action plan to boost mental health service

AN action plan has been drawn up to improve care for people with mental illnesses in the Black Country.

Health chiefs in Dudley and Walsall have drawn up a joint plan of action for how they will work together to improve services.

The scheme is part of the mental health crisis care concordat, which is a national agreement between services and agencies involved in the care and support of people in crisis which sets out how organisations can work together to make sure that people receive urgent mental health care.

Mona Mafouz, clinical lead for mental health at Dudley clinical commissioning group, said: "The concordat sets clear expectations about the standard of crisis care people should be able to expect in Dudley and it is a huge step forward. We must keep up momentum on this and support people who have a mental health problem to move towards recovery."

Matt Bowsher, Dudley Council's boss of adult social care, said: "Our action plan draws together a range of sectors and organisations. We are all committed to positive mental health."

Idea for glass walkway at campus axed

FRESH plans have been lodged for a £3 million performing arts centre at Halesowen College after concerns about the original designs were raised by fire chiefs.

The new complex was due to be connected to other buildings at the Whittingham Road site by a glass walkway, which the college had hoped to use as an exhibition space and break area for students.

But fire officers said as the link way would be the main escape route for the block in an emergency, it would need to be left clear. Revised designs have now been submitted for a stand alone complex after bosses said they would not be able to use the glazed walkway as hoped.

The performing arts centre is the latest stage of a revamp at the site, with £20m being invested in replacing buildings. It will provide teaching rooms and rehearsal space for students on music, drama and dance courses. The college has been struggling to provide enough space for the growing number of students taking performing arts courses. Some currently having to travel off campus to use facilities at Benjamins, a function hall in the town centre.

Little Harvey-Joe is toast of The Cat

The Cat Inn at Enville, run by Dan and Aimee Hicks whose baby son Harvey-Joe is eager to pull a pint, is Staffordshire Pub of the Year

Pub's favourite tot

IT'S not many youngsters who have a special beer brewed in celebration of their first birthday.

But Harvey-Joe Hicks has been honoured in just such a way and the ale, called The Cat's Crawler, has already proved a hit with drinkers.

His parents, Aimee and Dan, run The Cat Inn, in Bridgnorth Road, Enville, and the youngster is a well-known character among customers.

Enville Ales has brewed the 4.5 per cent amber ale to honour Harvey-Joe's first birthday which he will celebrate on April 29.

The beer is exclusive to drinkers at The Cat and will only be available for the rest of the month. And the youngster has been trying his hand at pulling pints of the ale.

The pub has a second reason to celebrate after being crowned the Campaign for Real Ale's South Staffordshire pub of the year for the third year running.

Mrs Hicks said they were still making plans for her son's birthday at the moment.

"It is great Enville Ales has brewed the beer to honour Harvey-Joe's birthday," she said.

"People have already sampled it and it is selling like hot cakes at the moment. It is really popular.

"Everybody at the pub loves Harvey-Joe. He is a well-known little character."

Mrs Hicks, 29, said she and her husband had been running the pub for three years.

DEATH

Inquiry after man is killed on track

A MAN was killed when he was hit by a train in the Black Country. He was struck near Dudley Port station at around 6.15am on Easter Monday.

Trains were suspended after the incident, reported by the driver of a Virgin Trains service, leading to delays for bank holiday travellers. National Express buses and Midland Metro accepted train tickets to help. A British Transport Police spokesman said: "Inquires are ongoing. The matter is not being treated as suspicious. Anyone with information is asked to contact 0800 40 50 40."

COMEDY

Grannies aim to conquer America

DANCING granny sensations The Fizzogs have gone to America after being snapped up by two TV stations.

The unique trio's Dancing Grannies routine will be broadcast on TruTV in Los Angeles and a Canadian television station is screening the Black Country troupe's comedy-drama Black By Day.

The transatlantic breakthrough comes on the back of the Fizzogs going viral on the internet last year when their dance at Stourbridge Carnival attracted 1.6 million hits worldwide.

HOMES

Canalside housing decision pending

PLANS to create a new canalside development in Tividale will be decided next week.

Developer Cameron Homes Ltd has submitted proposals to build 60 homes on the site of a former refuse tip to the rear of Tipton Road.

The company believes the land is the ideal location for new homes because of nearby transport links and leisure services.

A decision was due to be made by Sandwell Council last month but members decided a site visit was needed first.

Members of the planning committee are now set to make a decision on April 15.

INSIDE
ALEXANDRA IN GRAND SHOW

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Laptop cops won't do, says ex-chief

Ex-police chief Richard Green

A FORMER Black Country police chief has blasted cuts to forces up and down the country, warning that officers cannot work 'from Costa Coffee with a laptop'.

Richard Green is a retired Chief Superintendent who previously headed policing in Wolverhampton and Brierley Hill. He believes the level of cuts in the region have amounted to a form of 'vandalism' on front-line policing.

Last month it was revealed up to 2,500 West Midlands Police officers and staff are to be axed in the next four years as the force battles to save £120 million. Bosses have already been forced to cut £126m from the budget and lose 3,000 people from the payroll since 2010.

Mr Green said: "The cuts undermine some of the most serious aspects of policing. If police officers are not in the community they do not learn about things such as vulnerable young people who might be involved in terrorism, or the abuse of young people.

"They are simply not there to receive messages. You cannot police from Costa Coffee with a laptop. You need to be out in the public."

Mr Green was speaking outside Dudley Police Station last week after a visit by Labour's shadow policing minister, Jack Dromey.

He gave his 'personal support' to Ian Austin and Natasha Millward who are standing for Labour in Dudley North and Dudley South.

He also backed the campaign by Mr Austin, defending a slender Labour majority in Dudley North, to save the front desk at Dudley Police Station from closure. "It should be accessibility for all, not just those lucky enough to come across an officer on patrol or those with access to the internet," he added.

Thumbs up for £2.5m visitor centre at hall

A £2.5 million visitor centre will be built at Hagley Hall and Park later this year as part of the latest stage of works to reopen the site to the public.

Lord Cobham, who owns the 350-acre estate, says work could start by the summer to create the centre off the A456.

Councillors on Bromsgrove District Council have granted planning permission. Some campaigners including members of the Halesowen Abbey Trust and Hagley Parish Council had objected.

Their concerns include fears over the impact on Green Belt land, extra traffic on the busy route and subsequent pollution risks.

The scheme was approved subject to an agreement that proposed rangers' accommodation is for the sole use of estate employees.

Lord Cobham, Christopher Lyttleton, says he is pleased that progress can now be made with the aim of reopening the park – which has been closed for more than three decades – in 2016.

Entrance

He hopes income from up to 100,000 visitors a year will provide sustainable revenue aimed at helping pay vast costs associated which maintaining the 18th century hall and park. "It is good that we are now at the stage when work can start later on this year," he said.

The visitor centre would be the main entrance and will be built on fields off the A456 opposite the Badgers Sett pub.

New link roads will be built to access the site on the Stourbridge-bound side of the dual carriageway. Outline plans seek to create a car park for up to 180 vehicles including coaches.

The centre will incorporate education and history exhibitions showcasing Hagley Hall and Park through the decades including study areas for visiting school children.

There will also be a restaurant, gift shop and outdoor seating area alongside a children's play area.

Over recent months the ornate casades, waterfalls and pools have been cleared and rebuilt. Pathways which once led walkers on picturesque routes through the park have also been re-marked and relaid.

Key to happiness at care home

Tessa Chambers, Joyce Williams, Patricia Stevenson and Elsie Crawford with Jean Howard at the piano

A KIND-hearted teacher has found the key to ensure care home residents in Stourbridge are entertained.

Graeme Pounder, a piano teacher and tuner from Stourbridge, donated a piano to High Lodge Care Home in Iverley.

The instrument is already proving very popular as residents gather round to sing old time songs. It is also helping to play a big role for those who suffer with dementia. Care Home manager Patricia Stevenson said: "Music has such a wonderful ability to bring back memories that can otherwise be lost to dementia.

"The piano has made a huge difference to our residents and for one lady in particular, Jean Howard, who used to sing in a local choir and was a prominent member of the Stourbridge Operatic Society.

"When it arrived it was not long before I heard music being played and it was Jean who was sitting in front of it.

"Fond memories just came flooding back and is was wonderful to see. Singing and playing music is so good for memory but also for social interaction. We cannot thank Graeme enough."

Set in four acres of grounds, High Lodge is registered with the Care Quality Commission CQC to provide residential care for up to 29 residents. The home also provides short stay accommodation for those in need of respite care or convalescence.

£1m chapel restoration project now under way

A LONG-awaited £1million project to restore the landmark grade II listed Lye and Wollescote Chapels has begun.

Scaffolding has gone up around the building which houses identical Anglican and non-conformist chapels.

When restoration work is completed, the venue will be leased to Dudley Council as a register office.

David Trevis-Smith, project organiser for West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, said: "This marks the next stage of many years of community proposals led by West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust to repair the Grade II listed building and regenerate it to safeguard this Victorian landmark.

Charitable

"Following successful grant applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other charitable sources, the project will create a suite of facilities for use by Dudley Council citizenship and registration services.

"Specialist building contractors Croft Building & Conservation will be on site over the coming months, bringing the historic structure back into a state fit for re-use."

The building will have a waiting lobby and two reception areas as well as a wedding ceremony room and an office for staff. It dates back to 1878 and has been closed for the past 20 years.

The project is looking to set up a friends group which will work alongside the existing small group of dedicated volunteers.

Rates incentive to open toilets to all

COUNCIL bosses in Dudley have approved a scheme which would allow shoppers to use toilet facilities in pubs, cafes and restaurants without having to make a purchase.

It will run at locations across Dudley borough that have lost public toilets.

Dudley Council is offering businesses in the borough a rates reduction if they allow public access to their loos.

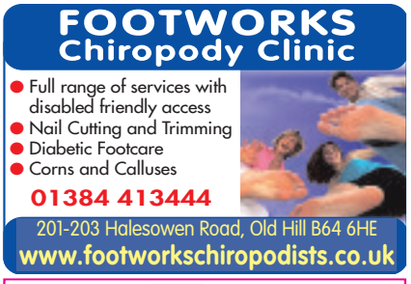
Finance boss Councillor Stuart Turner has approved an amendment to the authority's discretionary rate relief policy. It would see businesses offered a £700 per year rates reduction for taking part.

A number of public toilets across the borough were closed by the authority some years ago as part of cost cutting measures, to save up to £150,000 a year.

Park yobs target of police initiative

POLICE are targeting yobs drinking and vandalising King George VI Park in Wordsley.

Neighbourhood officers have been working to establish the new Street Watch project in the town in a bid to curb anti-social behaviour.



Lecture link to London bombing is condemned

MUSLIM leaders in Dudley have condemned extremism following revelations that terrorists who carried out the London 7/7 bombings visited a radical preacher in Dudley.

A jihadist turned MI5 spy Aimen Dean revealed the lecture took place months before the murders of more than 50 people.

The three men – Mohammad Sidique Khan, Shehzad Tanweer and Germaine Lindsay – were part of the four-man group which carried out the attack in London in July 2005.

Fifty two people were killed and more than 700 were injured when four bombs were detonated on London Underground trains and a double-decker bus in Tavistock Square.

In an interview Mr Dean said in his role as an undercover agent he attend a lecture in the winter of 2003 was given by Anwar al-Awlaki.

It has emerged was involved in planning terrorist operations for the Islamist militant group al-Qaeda.

About 30 to 40 people met in the converted flat on the first floor of a building to hear the lecture.

This week members of Dudley Central Mosque and the Dudley Muslim Association condemned the meeting.

Spokesman Amjid Raza said: "We are disappointed to hear about this but we have never heard anything about this until now.

"This is the first time we have heard about this. We condemn this extremism and we continue to work closely with the whole community."

Date for town hall to reopen

A £55,000 scheme to carry out vital repairs on the ceiling of Dudley Town Hall has been completed and the venue is expected to reopen on April 22.

The hall, in St James's Road, has been forced to close for four months after loose plaster was discovered on the ceiling.

Alongside repairs to the ceiling, work has also taken place to reinforce the balcony ceiling.

Tea dancers will kick off the new entertainment schedule. The hall will also host comedians Ken Dodd on June 20 and Milton Jones on October 2.

Other events include The Good Old Day of Variety, American Superslam Wrestling and a performance by the Soul Survivors.

Ofsted praise for primary school

INSPECTORS have praised Sacred Heart Primary School in Tipton, giving it the second highest rating. Pupils were performing well and Ofsted were impressed with the leadership of the headteacher Melanie Gee.

Just rewards for the unsung heroes

UNSUNG heroes in Dudley who go the extra mile to help others in their community have been honoured.

More than 150 people packed into the Village Hotel, Castlegate, for the Mayor's Civic Awards event. The borough's first citizen Councillor Margaret Aston presented the accolades to individuals and groups.

The Friends of Priory Park and The Green picked up the Mayor's Award after receiving the most votes online. Runners-up were secretary of the Priory Community Association Sally Johnson, secretary of the Worcester and Sherwood Forester Regiment Association Gordon Willetts and Raves Rescue, a charity with rescues abandoned animals.

James Stevens, frontman of band The Empty Can and voice of the Black Country anthem, was presented with the Cedric Hardwicke Award for art, sponsored by Stourbridge College.

Beryl Luckins received the runners-up award for her 40-year devotion to drama. Lila Redfern, who has served as a school governor for nearly 50 years received the Thomas Attwood award for education. Runner-up was Bev Hodt, a teacher at Ridgewood High School, in Stourbridge, for her work organising an annual fact-finding trip for pupils to The Gambia.

Halesowen's Mick Freer was presented with the William Shenstone Award for environment for his work in an ongoing project maintaining and preserving the walled garden at the Leasowes in the town.

The runners-up award went to Don Davies, the driving force behind the Woodsetton Charitable Trust.

The Mike Holder award for business went to Steve Parker, chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses. Ian Caswell, who has run the Arcade Toy Shop, in Dudley, for nearly 40 years, was runner-up.

Jordanne Whiley, paralympian and wheelchair tennis star, won the Duncan Edwards award for sport, ahead of basketball coach Clive Allen.

The Frank Foley award for community spirit went to Jane Ahmed, who set up the Chatback group.

Dream come true as patient meets UB40

'IT has made me feel stronger, like there is something saying to just keep going.'

So says Nicola Moore, a 32-year-old mother-of-two who was told just weeks ago she has terminal cancer.

last week, after thousands of people rallied online to support her, Nicola, of Wordsley, ticked the main item off her bucket list – meeting her idol, UB40 singer Ali Campbell.

She said: "When that door opened I just froze. Everything was in slow motion.

"Ali has made me feel good in myself now and more like I can try and get on with my illness. He seems a strong person himself and he understands. I've had my wish come true now."

Two months ago Nicola, mother to 12-year-old Chloe and 19-month-old Shyann, was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

After a dose of radiation treatment, just five weeks ago she received the news her cancer was terminal. With the help of Compton Hospice's PR and marketing officer Grace Ruston, Nicola posted her wish to meet UB40 on Facebook last Wednesday afternoon.

By the time reggae legends Ali and Astro walked into her room 24 hours later, the post had been viewed by 2.5 million people, and had been shared on Facebook more than 48,000 times.

Xhed

Back in Birmingham for just one day before heading to London to begin rehearsals for a national tour, the timing could not have been more perfect.

Ali said although they had had a few similar requests in the past, Nicola was 'a bit more special'.

"Wednesday night 500 people were interested, then 5,000, then 30,000, then 2.5 million on Thursday morning.

"I have had messages from Mississippi, New Zealand, Australia - 'Are you going to go and see this young lady?'

"Yeah man, we're on our way."

Astro added: "How can we not go?"

Meeting Nicola had been very humbling, he said. "At the end of the day these are the people who have supported us throughout our careers...these are hardcore fans who have stood by us through thick and thin.

"We were happy that we were in the neighbourhood and we made her wish come true...of all the people and bands in the world she chose us, I feel honoured."

Aware she was in for some sort of surprise, Nicola had no idea who was going to be visiting. She said: "I have had some poorly days this week but this has just changed it all. I'm so happy, just chuffed. I'm just shocked, I feel like glass."

Nicola Moore meets UB40's Ali Campbell and Astro at Compton Hospice

Describing Ali as 'incredible', Nicola said she had been a fan of the band since she was a child and her mother would play their music.

She said: "He had the walk – that style, that cool walk coming towards me.

"I felt like something was pulling me, it felt like he's coming to me now like God was coming to hold my hand.

"He winked at me as well and gave me a kiss on the cheek and held my hand, I couldn't believe it."

Nicola sang a few lines of 'Rat in the Kitchen' for them, as they chatted about their childhoods and compared tattoos. Ali and Astro pledged to dedicate last Friday's session on Radio 2's Chris Evans' show to Nicola, as well as a song at their Nottingham show tonight (Thursday) which she will be attending as a VIP guest.

Nicola's mother Susan Colman, 52, said it was wonderful seeing her daughter smile. "To see her happy again after what she has been through is tremendous," she said.

"We never thought it would go like this, just posting something on the internet."

Miss Ruston said: "When Nicola first told us about this she was in a lot of pain and she looked quite unwell.

"Seeing her now and showing her all those messages, she just looks so bright and so happy."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Patrols against off-road bikers

POLICE patrols are being increased around a Dudley nature reserve following complaints about off-road bikes.

Residents living near Fens Pool in Brierley Hill have reported the bikes being used during evenings and weekends. Members of the Brockmoor and Pensnett police team have pledged to tackle the issue and have increased patrols. They said: "As the lighter night return, so does the issue of off road bikes."

Those causing a menace on the bikes face having them confiscated.

Driver in court over fatal crash

A MAN has appeared in court charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Jamie Wharton, aged 29, was behind the wheel of a Nissan Skyline when it careered through a garden wall in St Peter's Road, Netherton, last June. Front seat passenger Timothy Pearson, 23, suffered fatal injuries.

At Dudley magistrates court, Wharton, of Birch Coppice, Quarry Bank, was released on unconditional bail to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 23 for a plea and case management hearing.

Burglary suspect held in custody

A MAN has charged with carrying out a series of burglaries at homes across Dudley borough.

Scott Pooler, aged 39, and of no fixed address, was arrested outside the Cousins store in the town centre, after the furniture shop reported a lamp had been stolen.

He was charged with seven counts of burglary and one theft and, at Dudley Magistrates Court, was remanded in custody ahead of an appearance at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Letters in favour of supermarket scheme

MORE than 100 letters in support of a supermarket on the site of a landmark pub in Dudley have been lodged.

Aldi has lodged proposals to demolish The King Arthur, beside the Birmingham New Road, to make way for the store.

The supermarket says its plans for 1,000 sq ft store will create 40 jobs and have a 94-space car park.

Nearby residents have written to Dudley Council in support of the scheme.

Police probe stabbing

A STABBING victim was in a stable condition in hospital after being attacked in broad daylight in Coseley.

The 38-year-old man was stabbed twice in the car park at The Royal Hotel in Castle Street at 4.15pm on Saturday. Police said inquiries were ongoing.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ONE thing I know from a reliable source is that some charity shops suffer huge losses from shoplifting. Scum does not even begin to describe them.

MY recent item about the woman on Antiques Roadshow who bought a necklace from a charity shop for £5 and had it valued at up to £6,000 brings much dark muttering. There is a persistent rumour that charity-shop workers get the pick of the goods. Is it true? Or is it just a tale put about by people who have never given the time and effort to work in such places?

WHILE the rest of the cast in The Ark have the usual Genesis beards and straggly hair, young Kenan (Nico Mirallegro) has an authentic 2015 boy-band haircut. And lo, in those days did Kenan, son of Noah, go forth unto the House of Salon and saith unto the barber therein: "Number four all over, mate, and tapered neck."

REMEMBER the shirt I bought on the internet which generated no fewer than six emails from the makers? Make that eight. I've had two sales pitches, including one offering me the chance to "stay wrinkle-free all day." Frankly, that would take more than a shirt.

A READER writes: "I have developed a way of dealing with people who say Jeremy Clarkson should not have been sacked. I call them a lazy **** and punch them in the mouth."

IT is a very rare thing for anyone to resign voluntarily from the House of Lords, the best club on London, but for whatever reasons, Lord Ashcroft has. His departure releases one bottom-space in that over-packed citadel of hot air where 800 peers pontificate. In a sane system there would be no more than a couple of hundred. Farewell, Lord Ashcroft. One down, 600 to go.

PLANNING ahead. A reader who recently fixed an NHS appointment for August received a "change of appointment letter" this week. The appointment is still on the same date in August, but just five minutes later. As she says: "What a waste of time, effort and NHS funds." Especially as we all know the appointment will be late anyway.

YOU would think from the reviews of Poldark (BBC1) that it was all about acres of nudity. In truth it's all very restrained. Yet the weekly focus on the groping means that some superb moments go unremarked. So let's hear it for Ruby Bentall, as Verity Poldark, having a friendly chat with Demelza (Eleanor Tomlinson) who suddenly turns the conversation to how, when she and Ross are a-bed, she pleasures him. Prim little Verity almost has what used to be called a fit of the vapours. Priceless.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Man jailed after newsagent robbery

A ROBBER has been jailed for more than four years for his part in a terrifying raid on a newsagents in the Black Country.

John Garratt and an accomplice stole £500 worth of cigarettes and attempted to steal a cash box from M&S News in Tipton after threatening the shopkeeper with a claw hammer and pushing her to the floor on November 21.

David Bennett, prosecuting, said the robbery left the woman 'unnerved' and unable to work in the shop on her own, though she did not suffer physical injuries.

She was behind the counter when drug addict Garratt, aged 28, and another man approached her wearing face masks. One of them then raised the hammer before attempting to take the cash box but was pushed away by the shopkeeper who called for help. The other was stealing cigarettes from behind the counter and was also pushed away but forced her onto the floor. The woman's family caused one of the robbers to run while the other threatened the family with the hammer before fleeing.

Mr Bennett said Garratt had numerous previous convictions for robbery. Thomas Schofield, mitigating, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Garratt, of Elwell Street, West Bromwich, was 'remorseful' about his crime.

Recorder Anthony Lowe said there was 'no point' in lecturing about his crimes because previous judges had done the same without Garratt changing his behaviour. He sentenced him to four years and eight months in prison.

Construction work at market hits traders

By Charlie Benton

MARKET traders in Dudley claim they are still losing business despite moving into new stalls as part of a £6.7million revamp.

Stallholders say customers are being driven away by the noise of the on-going construction work in High Street.

Work started in January last year, leaving the traders in temporary stalls for more than 12 months and throughout the Christmas period.

They have seen their takings plummet and and despite most of the stallholders now having settled into the new revamped market place, they say they are still finding it tough.

Work is still going on around them as the finishing touches are put to most of the stalls and traders say the noise of the work, which may not be complete until August, is deterring shoppers.

Scared

Roy Eaton, aged 70, who has owned his clothing stall on the market since 1956 and now works there part-time for his son, said the work had been disruptive.

"I think it's time it was done, now," Mr Eaton said. "It is nice and clean but it has just taken too long and caused too much disruption.

"I think you do have to give it time, but I do think customers are being scared away by the work."

Graham Southall, aged 51, of Derby End Road, who has worked on a vegetable stall on the market for 12 years, said: "We have been told that it will be August when they are finally finished – we just want it to be done now."

John Millar, acting strategic director for economy, environment and housing at Dudley Council, said: "We are in the process of putting the finishing touches to the market place area and when complete will benefit the business community, shoppers and visitors alike.

"The overall scheme is on schedule and in budget, and is due to be completed by early summer."

Cancer unit jam jar plea extended

Launching the jam jar appeal for the leukaemia unit are trustees Pauline Jenkins, left and Ros Bratt-Wytton

A CHARITY hopes loose change will add up to thousands of pounds for a cancer unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Members of the Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund are once again holding their jam jar appeal to bring in cash for the good cause. And they hope residents will show the same level of support as when they first staged the appeal three years ago.

The charity supports the hospital's Georgina Unit and raises funds through events and its two shops in Upper Gornal and Tipton.

The last jam jar appeal was held over the course of the three months and raised £3,000 for the unit. This time, because of its previous success, the charity has decided to extend the campaign. It kicked off last week and will run for six months.

People can pick up a jam jar from the charity's shops in the Arcade, Upper Gornal, and Unity Walk Arcade, Owen Street, in Tipton.

They are then asked to place their loose change into the jar and bring it back to the shop once full. Alternatively people can fill up their own jam jars with coins and donate it to the charity.

Charity bosses said they had already donated around £150,000 to the unit.

Ros Bratt-Wytton, charity trustee, said: "It is for a very good cause and people are always very generous in their support."

Wheelchair users' legal challenge to temple

WORSHIPPERS are suing the largest Sikh temple in Wolverhampton after accusing it of discriminating against people in wheelchairs.

The group accuses the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Blakenhall of leaving people in wheelchairs outside the main prayer room and making them sit behind screens in the dining room because they are unable to observe the custom of sitting on the floor.

Papers have been filed with the County Court in Birmingham. Letters have been sent by Paul Uppal and Pat McFadden, both seeking re-election as MPs in Wolverhampton, reminding the gurdwara of its obligations under disability discrimination laws.

About 10,000 people regularly use the Sedgley Street gurdawara. Campaigners say people in wheelchairs cannot reach the prayer room because a lift is not always available. The committee says no-one is being excluded and plans are in place for a new building which will improve access.

Rajinder Bassi, chairman of the Sikh Forum Wolverhampton, said about £5,000 has been raised through donations to fund the legal challenge. "What is happening to disabled and older people is degrading," he said

Gurdwara management say more facilities for disabled worshippers will be provided under a £2 million revamp. A spokesman said: "We make as far as possibly practical reasonable adjustments that are also consistent with our practices to accommodate people with disabilities taking account of our faith's traditions."

Escape for driver as car overturns

A MOTORIST had a lucky escape after a car overturned, landing on a grass verge off a road near Stourbridge.

The occupant was able to walk away unhurt from the accident on the A449 between Stourton and Kinver.

Fire crews, paramedics and police were called to the accident at the junction off Dunsley Road at around 1.30pm last Wednesday, April 1.

It is believed two cars had collided and one vehicle, a blue Vauxhall Corsa, had flipped over onto its roof.

One person was able to get out of the car and was checked over by paramedics at the roadside. No one required hospital treatment.

Both vehicles were checked to ensure they were safe and crews from Stourbridge fire station left after 2pm.

Start date for work on council houses

WORK to create new council houses on the site of a former care home to help meet demand will begin in June. Arcal Lodge in Sedgley will be converted into eight bungalows and six apartments. Planning permission was granted for the scheme in February.

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Service will honour the memory of businessman

A SERVICE will celebrate the life of respected businessman Douglas Graham, chairman of the Claverley Group, parent company of the Express & Star and Shropshire Star.

Mr Graham died after a short illness, aged 85. He belonged to the Wolverhampton-based family company, widely regarded as one of the most successful in the newspaper and print industry.

A service to celebrate his life will take place at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton on Monday, April 13. It starts at 11.30am. At the family's request, in lieu of flowers, donations are asked to be made to Compton Hospice, Severn Hospice and Hope House.

Mr Graham succeeded his father, Malcolm Graham, as chairman of the Claverley Group in 1993 after a lifelong career in the business.

A keen motor enthusiast, he lived at Worfield near Bridgnorth, was a life member of the British Racing Drivers' Club and was a game shooting enthusiast. His wife Sara said she was especially thankful for the care he received at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, where he passed away. She said: "I was jolly lucky to have been married to him for nearly 35 years."

Claverley CEO Phil Inman said: "Mr Graham was a major force in the success of our business. His career, which spanned more than half a century, saw the MNA and its sister companies achieve significant triumphs amid times of fierce competition and constant change."

Asbestos cause of fitter's death

A RETIRED heating fitter has died as a result of exposure to asbestos during his working life.

Roy Timmins, 73, of Board School Gardens, Upper Gornal, died in Russells Hall Hospital, in Dudley, on December 27 last year.

The inquest held in Smethwick Council House was told that Mr Timmins had worked for Combat Engineering Limited in the 1970s. His duties involved him making holes in asbestos sheeting and removing lagging from cast iron pipes.

He was previously diagnosed with the condition and received a compensation payout shortly before his death.

The cause of death was given as chronic pulmonary disease, asbestosis, small bleeds and heart disease.

Petition signed over flats plan

AROUND 50 people have petitioned against plans to turn a Dudley flat into two homes.

Under the plans one of the flats in New Street will be converted into two apartments.

Forty years of Jack and the foxtrot

Jack Rollason and Doreen Round

DANCERS have shown off their steps on the dancefloor as they celebrate their club's 40th anniversary.

Members of the JR Dance Club, based in Dudley, have come together to mark the landmark occasion.

It was a special moment for group founder Jack Rollason, aged 87, who started dancing more than 60 years ago.

The club regularly meet on Tuesday afternoons and on the last Saturday each month for dance events at Russells Hall Youth and Community Centre, in Overfield Road. Members also meet for social events, day trips out and holidays.

A meal was laid on for members at The Lodge, in Wellington Road, to mark the milestone, after which they danced the evening away in celebration.

Mr Rollason, a retired engineer who lives on the Russells Hall estate, said: "It was a brilliant event. They laid on a great meal and then we had a dance afterwards. It was great.

"I have always liked dancing. It is a great group," added Mr Rollason who has four grand children and four great grand children. He started the group when he was a church warden at St Barnabas Church, in Russells Hall, and had been approached after a service to help teach a dance class.

Friend Doreen Round, 84, from Pensnett, joined the group four years ago and has since become Mr Rollason's dance partner. She said: "It is a wonderful group. Everyone is very friendly and welcoming and they help show people the steps to dances."

Mr Rollason says he will stay involved with the group for as long as possible .

Clampdown on yobs at multi-storey car park

A NEW crackdown on yobs causing a nuisance in a Stourbridge shopping centre car park is to take place.

Police have applied to use a Public Space Protection Plan (PSPO) to deal with anti-social behaviour plaguing the Ryemarket, which includes skateboarders and BMX riders getting in the way of motorists, sometimes skating dangerously down ramps. Walls have been daubed with graffiti.

The PSPO is a new power under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which enables councils to deal with problems in public spaces by imposing conditions for the use of that area.

Staff and shoppers have complained about the problems in the car park. Now members of the Wollaston and Stourbridge town police team have pledged to tackle the issue.

Sgt Andy Holder, who is leading the police team tackling the problem, said: "Due to reports from shoppers and shop staff at the Ryemarket shopping centre of youths acting in an anti-social manner in the multi-storey car park it has been decided to include this as an issue for the team to address.

Patrols

"We are in the process of potentially applying for a Public Space Protection Plan (PSPO).

"We have obtained business impact statements and we have also liaised with partner agencies, Dudley Council, youth services and the fire service. We have issued two stage one anti-social behaviour warning letters. We will continue with regular patrols in the area at various times during our tour of duty."

Margaret Scott, chairman of the Stourbridge Township Council, said the problem of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the Ryemarket had been an issue for many years.

"We saw an increase when the multi-storey on the ring road was demolished and the Tesco was built. They could not go there anymore so they all moved to the Ryemarket.

"You do see them, late at night, causing problems with their skateboards and in the stairwells.

"These new protection plans are quite new but we have spoken to the police and discussed them at meetings and I am 100 per cent behind the idea.

"Not only is there a concern about the behaviour, but my worry is that with the way they treat the ramps, we could also see a serious accident," Mrs Scott said.

Oba seals place in zoo history

Patagonian Sea Lion Oba is released into his new surroundings at Dudley Zoo

WEIGHING more than 37 stone and having to be lowered into his new home by a crane – Oba the sealion certainly isn't one of the lightest residents of Dudley Zoo.

The 14-year-old Patagonian sealion has travelled all the way to the Black Country from Marineland in Antibes, on the French Riviera by road and ferry.

He has joined fellow new arrival Deisy, an 18-year-old female, who has moved from Plaisance du Touch, near Toulouse.

They have been brought in to keep 26-year-old Cleo company. The zoo's registrar and research co-ordinator, Dr David Beeston, said: "We had planned to increase the group after the terribly sad death of great favourite Orry, a 22-year-old male, who passed away last July.

"Female sea lions in particular do like to hang about together."

The Sealion pool has just undergone specialist renovation work to repair the wavy Tecton den, ramp and diving board using original shuttering techniques.

The pool is one of 12 Modernist buildings constructed between 1935 and the zoo's opening in May 1937.

Oba the moon at new home

NEWS IN BRIEF

Devolved powers for city region

BIRMINGHAM is to become the next city to get devolved powers, it has been claimed, in a move that would likely mean councils in the Black Country being granted greater responsibilities too.

Conservative Party grandee Lord Heseltine said it had been agreed by the Government to make the change in the second city. The move, which has already been made in Greater Manchester, would likely mean councils in the Black Country also being given greater freedom over business rates, transport, planning and health.

Thousands drawn by glass festival

THE International Festival of Glass will return to Stourbridge on May 28.

Thousands of visitors from across the globe will descend on the town for the four-day event.

The festival will also host the British Glass Biennale which features work from 77 artists who have been selected for the prestigious award.

The artists will travel from countries including Costa Rica, South Korea, Israel, Sweden, Germany and Japan. There will also entries from those living and working in Stourbridge's Glass Quarter.

Car hit railings and turned over

A CAR ended up on its side after colliding with an electrical box and railings in the Black Country.

Firefighters were called to Four Winds Road, between Dudley and Rowley Regis, at around 7pm on Saturday night.

The driver had left the scene by the time crews arrived and no-one was injured.

It was one of a number of smashes in the region over the bank holiday weekend.

Spring into action at park's family event

A PARK friends group will celebrate the start of spring with a fair this Saturday.

The event will take place at Wollescote Park, near Stourbridge, from 11am until 3pm.

Attractions on the day will include a tug of war, a football shoot out and splat the rat.

There will also be displays of morris dancing, British military fitness and story time sessions.

Admission is free.

Road to shut for works

PART of the busy Hagley Road near Stourbridge will be closed for nine nights for roadworks to be carried out.

The road will be shut in both directions near its junction with Birmingham Road. It will be blocked between 8pm and 6am from today (Thursday).

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

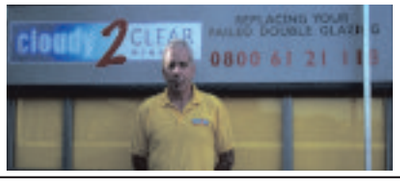
It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Computer ban is a great idea but those names are just a no-no

THE terms 'grounded' and 'balanced' are not terms ones one would normally associate with Hollywood couples, but Helen McCrory and Damien Lewis deserve at least two cheers for their strict rules on bringing up their two children.

Concerned about the way a growing number of children seem to live their life through the internet, Peaky Blinders star McCrory has said that her son, aged eight, and daughter nine, are banned from using the computer on school nights, and are allowed only limited access at weekends.

Instead, the couple are encouraging them to read books, including a thesaurus to help them expand their word power.

And quite right too. There is no reason whatsoever why children aged eight or nine should be spending their time glued to computers. At that age they should be discovering real life, warts and all, not studying some virtual world through an electronic medium. They should be playing football, cricket or netball with their friends, building dens, painting or baking cakes, not locked in their bedrooms with only a screen for company.

One only has to look around us to see how the computer age has produced a generation of isolated, introverted, individuals who fear any social interaction that does not come at the click of a mouse or the press of a touch-screen. Being a teenager is difficult enough, without spending hours on end tapping away at a computer. There will be plenty of time for that when they grow up.

And while the political classes are getting all worked up about children being exposed to online pornography, has no one ever stopped to consider that this would be much less of a problem if we did not encourage children to spend so much time on computers?

However, while McCrory and Lewis deserve credit for ensuring their children will learn about real life as well as virtual reality, I do wonder whether they really helped the cause by saddling them with the monikers Manon and Gulliver.

There's just this nagging suspicion that they would find it easier to relate to their peers if they were called Dave and Julie.

□□□□□

MARKETING, the art of using lengthy and plentiful words to say very little. Take this beauty from a well known Australian brewing corporation: "Radler is Foster's Lager cut with cloudy lemon. Fruity and sharp, it has a distinctive citrus taste, making it a refreshing lager, perfect to enjoy when you're kicking back and want to take things that little bit easier."

Or shandy, as it used to be called in the old days.

Dave with guide Rosemary Rhodes and the Black Country flags

A device to suck out posion if bitten by a

Participants are seen taking on one of the desert's huge sand dunes

Dave on desert trail to fly flag for region

ANDREW TURTON caught up with Blind Dave Heeley before he started on another massive challenge in the Sahara

BLACK Country charity champ Dave Heeley is blazing a trail once more to inspire a generation, as he nears to the end of a gruelling 160-mile run through the Sahara Desert.

Whether it is climbing soaring 590ft high sand dunes, battling sweltering 120F temperatures or tucking into a packet of Black Country pork scratchings to keep his strength up, Dave is once again a superb ambassador for the region.

With his last minute packing –before flying out to Morocco – including his trusty Black Country Flag, Dave has completed weeks of tough training in preparation for the six-day event.

The father-of-three, who is a devoted Baggies fan, has already helped raise almost £20,000 for West Brom's charity The Albion Foundation which supports community projects including disability sport.

The foundation established the Tri-Challenge to bring in vital funds through endurance feats including a charity bike ride and a walk between schools in Sandwell.

And now the final leg of this awe-inspiring challenge will take Dave, aged 57, and his two guides Tony Ellis and Rosemary Rhodes to the desert.

He is being cheered on by his family including wife Deb, who he has been married to for 10 years, and daughters Grace, 24, Georgie-Lee, 13, and 11-year-old Dannie.

Dave is carrying a locket with him contain silver impressions of their fingerprints to help remind him of them more than 1,400 miles away.

After touching down in north Africa, Dave took a five-hour coach journey to the edge of the Sahara.

Around 1,000 competitors from all around the world come to take part in the Marathon Des Sables which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

But Dave will be the first ever blind athlete to take on the challenge.

"I'm the first blind bloke and I'm from West Brom," he said. "I get a sense of pride from that and it helps spur me on.

"I'll have my Black Country flag with me and hopefully I'm representing us lot.

"Everyone has been fantastic with their support. I can't thank them enough. Especially my family, they have been amazing."

Ahead of the challenge Dave had acclimatised to the harsh conditions by training in a humidity chamber at the University of Birmingham. Athletes sleep under in tents in the desert and face different terrain and conditions every day – including huge sand dunes, dried up river beds and rocky routes.

Each athlete is given a GPS tracker so that the organisers can monitor the competitors can the make their way through the vast desert.

Dave has had a full medical and a electrocardiogram and was told he could encounter heatstroke, dehydration and bites from creatures like scorpions.

His kit bag weighs around 9kgs and carries all his essentials. The only supplies they are given is four litres of fresh water each day.

The only items he will eat each day consists of dried food likes noodles, fruit and even cottage pie and chilli con carne.

The team have to take in a minimum of 2,000 calories a day and athletes are instructed to use tablets to replace essential nutrients and electrolytes.

But Dave added: "I'm also taking a Peperami and and some pork scratchings too. They will help with replacing salts and they are a treat too to keep me going."

Dave was born with the hereditary disease of the eye of Retinitis Pigmentosa which was diagnosed at the age of 10. The condition brought the gradual deterioration of his sight. "At the time I was diagnosed it didn't affected me as maybe I didn't really understood it. From 16 my sight just nosed dived. But it had gone by my 20s.

"Because you get so busy and you learn to cope. It still staggers me that just a few years ago I could see. Now I can see millions and millions of lights in front of me, then dull lights then almost a honeycomb and it is bright.

"But it was and is still a frustration. You never get used to being blind but you learn to accept the fact that barring a miracle there are no worries in the world that will bring it back."

Dave said: "I've been told the kids look up to me and that's nice. If they can think 'if that old codger can do it, what can we do'. I want them to look it that way. If that spurs them on then fantastic."

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/blind-davemds or go to www.thealbionfoundation.co.uk

Some of the provisions and equipment runner Blind Dave has taken with him for his trek

Facing the facts of the Sahara

SCORCHING temperatures in the Sahara during the high season can reach up to 120F (49C).

During the Marathon Des Sables a minimum daily intake of 2,000 calories is recommended. Most participants take between 3,000 to 4,000 to compensate for daily losses.

There are snakes in Morocco but competitors rarely glimpse them. Instead they may encounter scorpions and mosquitoes.

Sun hats with neck covers are essential as well as Factor 50 sun block.

Athletes are told to eat a breakfast each day and eat high-energy snacks every 20 to 30 minutes during the race.

At least four litres of water are available to drink every day with checkpoints set up to replenish thirsty athletes.

People carry up to 15kgs of kit including their tent, cooking equipment, food and water during the day.

Each days stage starts from 8am and runners are forced to cope with the high temperatures in the midday sun.

Competitors are only told their route on the first day. One stage will be 50 miles-long.

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Trains not trees would help us all

NETWORK Rail, the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, Centro and DfT should no longer fund the re-opening of rural lines but get to work in re-introduction of stations and tracks that literally run alongside or near to bumper-to-bumper commuter traffic in our own densely populated urban conurbation.

Stations are urgently needed at Waterfront and Merry Hill, Dudley Castle Hill, Wednesbury on the scrub and woodland, 21km Black Country rail line. Trains not trees would be more of a help to us all.

This is the only, unused, north-south, inter-city line between congested New Street Station and the Hereford-Shrewsbury Line between London and Scotland. It goes through the heart of three densely populated Black Country boroughs with a population of about a million.

Many years ago, there was a PTA/Centro plan to put Midland Metro light rail trams on this freight line but not even this has been achieved.

T WELLER
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

What's the purpose of debates?

WHAT is the big deal with these TV debates? What is all the fuss about?

We managed prior to 2010 without them. Even after them what did we learn? Not one thing.

More than 20 million people watched them, yet the turn-out was still low.

I for one watched out of curiosity for the first one. The debates offered nothing in enlightening me into voting for any of the parties, in a lot of ways it turned me off politics because of their childish bickering.

Debates serve no more purpose than allowing TV producers to use the time to broadcast such drivel, rather than find decent programmes for viewers to watch. This is just cheap TV and if those that think for a second the debates will make people vote, then they are deluding themselves.

The politicians just use the time to attempt to con the public and later deny they said it. I say just don't have them, a complete waste of time and money.

P LOWE
Brierley Hill

Intrigued at reaction to scooter comments

WHEN I wrote about mobility scooters they were generalised comments not an attack on any specific user.

I am not sure why but D Robinson, who is 83 and cannot walk more than 20/30 yards before losing balance, seems to have taken it as a personal affront.

Quite why my so-called petty comments should niggle him intrigues me.

The point I was trying to make was not so much about who should use mobility scooters or not, but how they can be seen to be used for purposes for which they are not intended, and in doing so they can present a hazard.

By his own admission D Robinson's scooter can only travel up to 6kph, so he implies that I exaggerate when I say people have whizzed past me pretty quickly.

In my book six kph is a pretty brisk walking pace and in towns with its congested or restricted pavements, and at that speed, there is a chance of serious injury, especially concerning the elderly and infirm.

For me, totally deaf and with a balance problem, changing direction on a pavement and with a scooter travelling at that speed behind me, it could be a quick route to A&E. This to me makes it difficult to accept at face value the assertion that most, if not all, motor scooter owners have third party insurance.

J B WALDRON
Stourbridge

You can see doctor – 18 days later

AS the General Election looms, David Cameron has aspirations for an NHS working policy of seven days a week. Is he living in cloud cuckoo land or just having a laugh?

I very rarely have made a visit to the doctors but on Monday, March 30, I had the need to make an appointment at the practice I use which is Great Bridge Partnerships for Health.

Having no joy trying to phone and book an appointment I had to go and see the receptionist. I was astonished when she told me that I could see a doctor on Friday, April 17, which was 18, yes 18 days later. I left and went to see a local pharmacist about my problem.

So please Mr Cameron get to core issues like this before trying to preach for better things.

T MILLS
Dudley

Reason why we need a zoo

REPLYING to my letter calling for the demolition of Dudley Hippodrome, M Laws asks "Why do we need a zoo?" The answer of course is that, in 2014 it was visited by 290,000 people.

In his letter he does acknowledge what an eyesore and anachronism it is by suggesting a way of disguising it.

Another correspondent gave their reason for preservation the fact that they had performed there.

B OSBORNE
Dudley

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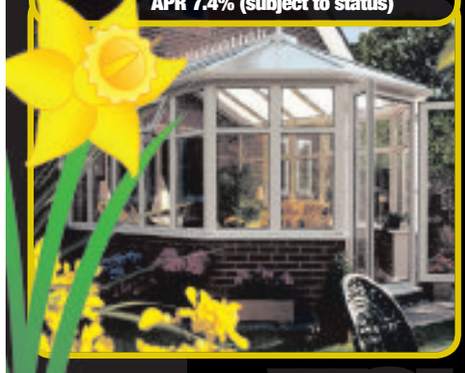

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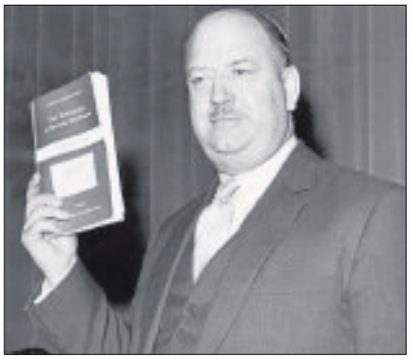

Between the two reports on railway cutbacks, the West Midlands was hit as hard as anywhere

Dr Beeching had been tasked with making savings and the axing of several lines made him unpopular with rail enthusiasts

Why cutbacks put Dr Beeching on the wrong track with the rail enthusiasts

DR Richard Beeching has a bad reputation among rail enthusiasts. His name has become a dirty word.

MEMORY LANE

By Rob Cox

On the back of his 1963 report 'The Reshaping of British Railways'', more commonly known as the Beeching report, the government ripped up around a third of the national's rail tracks.

It was a move which devastated the network, costing 67,000 people their jobs and closing 2,363 railway stations in the process. But much less widely known is Beeching's second report, which marks its 50th anniversary in 2015. Just don't expect to see rail enthusiasts celebrating.

Entitled 'The Development of the Major Railway Trunk Routes' the report cemented much of what had been achieved by the earlier publication and further concentrated future plans for the network around a handful of main lines.

Between the two reports, the West Midlands was hit as hard as anywhere.

Dr Beeching had been tasked with making savings. Big savings.

British Rail was losing £140 million a year when he took over as chairman of the British Transport Commission in 1961.

His strategy was to implement wholesale route closures in an attempt to concentrate resources on the core routes and close down those sections which were losing money.

Inevitable

So in the West Midlands, some of the closures were inevitable. It emerged from Dr Beeching's studies that the Windmill End station, just outside Dudley, had been used by just one passenger a day, and it was surely little wonder that the town's three-mile Bumble Hole line was to close. But Beeching did not stop there.

While most people expected that some of the smaller towns would lose their rail links, he proposed the closure of all passenger services to Dudley and Walsall.

Dudley was one of the biggest communities in the country to be hit when its station at the bottom of Castle Hill was closed in July 1964.

Walsall station managed to avoid the full force of the axe, but had its services drastically reduced with just one line being retained to Birmingham New Street. Cannock, Aldridge and Wednesbury would also lose their stations, along with Darlaston, West Bromwich and Great Bridge.

Across the country 4,500 miles of railway tracks were put out of use. In their place motorways were being built at a rapid rate and the car was seen as the future.

No longer would rural areas have immediate access to the rail network. In many places replacement bus services were established, but few stood the test of time.

It is often argued Dr Beeching took a narrow-minded view of how money was generated on the rail network.

David Williams, editor of the Severn Valley Railway News, explains: "His remit was to reduce the deficit that the railways had at that time," he said. "It has been said since that what he did was to cut off the bits around the core of the network.

"The trouble was that those fed into the main system. What Beeching didn't take into account was just that.

"He had got a scientific background and not a background in the railways. He considered the lines and stations independently not the cumulative affect his measures would have. His view was a very narrow one."

The second Beeching report concentrated on stimulating traffic on the core routes. Rather than branch line closures it set out which sections of the main line would be developed, and which would not.

Dr Beeching felt the "bloated" network was a legacy from the private foundations of the railways that was no longer cost-effective.

His conclusion was that of 7,500 miles of 'trunk' railway only 3,000 miles "should be selected for future development" and invested in.

It resulted in traffic being routed along nine lines.

Dr Beeching estimated it would save between £50-£100m.

Among the stations closed under the Beeching axe

Hammerwich
Brownhills
Pelsall
Wednesbury Town
Great Bridge North
Dudley Port Low Level
Dudley
Windmill End
Baptist End
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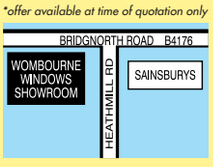

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Zoo boss suspended as investigation launched

THE chief executive of Dudley Zoo has been suspended pending an investigation into his conduct.

Peter Suddock, who has been in charge of the zoo for more than 20 years, has been suspended on full pay. It is understood the suspension relates to financial matters.

The investigation will be monitored by the Charity Commission, officials have announced.

Dudley Zoo, which is a registered charity, is governed by a board of trustees who are answerable to the Charity Commission.

Zoo boss Peter Suddock at the gates of the popular Castle Hill attraction

Serious

Officials at the commission have confirmed that they received a 'Serious Incident Report' from the trustees.

Officials from the attraction, which was visited by more than 290,000 people in 2014, said the investigation was into Mr Suddock's 'conduct of certain affairs of the zoo.'

A Charity Commission spokesman said: "We have received a Serious Incident Report from the charity making us aware of the suspension of the chief executive.

"The charity did the right thing in submitting this report to us. We are in contact with the trustees, who will be providing us with further information as their investigation progresses."

Further details of the allegations have yet to be revealed.

It is also understood that Mr Suddock's wife Jill Hitchman has left her post as head of media at the attraction. She told a follower on Twitter that she was 'no longer based' at Dudley Zoo.

One of the trustees, former Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks, said he could not comment on details due to 'legal considerations'. He added: "I have kept the leader of the council and the chief legal officer informed of events to my knowledge."

Dudley Zoo said: "Peter Suddock, the CEO of Dudley Zoo, has been suspended on full pay pending an investigation into his conduct of certain affairs of the zoo.

"The suspension does not constitute disciplinary action by the zoo. Whether or not disciplinary action is taken will depend upon the outcome of the investigation."

Mr Suddock's business career began in the engineering industry. He went on to become chairman of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, before he became chief executive of the attraction in 1993.

He has overseen major restoration projects at the site in Castle Hill, including the renovation of its chairlift and famous Tecton enclosures.

In the past decade more than £1 million of the zoo's own funds has been spent on a revamp of the site. A further £3.05m has been in place for a four-year programme of improvement as the attraction has become increasingly popular.

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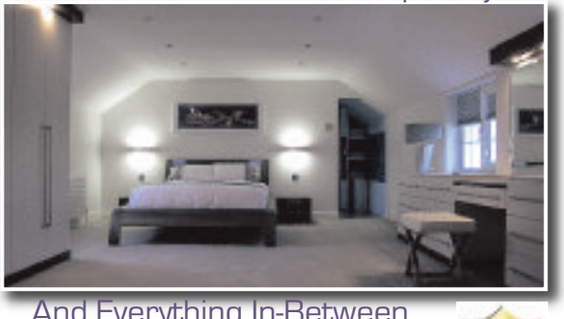

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Diamond wedding couple Jack and Norma Washington

Couple who met at cinema reel in 60 years of marriage

LOVE blossomed for a diamond couple after a chance meeting at the cinema sparked 60 years of wedded bliss. Now Jack and Norma Washington have marked the marriage milestone with a family gathering.

As a teenager Norma visited The Savoy Cinema in Netherton with her friend Dorothy Cartwright when she saw her husband-to-be.

The pair exchanged a smile but it was two years later when they met properly while out at Netherton Park in 1952.

The couple remained inseparable ever since and wed at St Andrew's Church in Netherton on March 26, 1955. They celebrated their diamond anniversary with a surprise party at Brewers Wharf pub, in Brierley Hill, on March 28. Mrs Washington, now aged 80, worked at different places over the years including Hampton Shoe Factory in Netherton where she was a seamstress. She also worked for sportswear company 4x4 for 13 years and the International Food Store in Netherton for nine years

Her husband, 83, was an engineer. They continued to live in Netherton after marrying and now live in Darby End Road.

Mrs Washington said: "I think the key to a long marriage is trying to do things together. I know we have our ups and downs, but I would do it all again."

The couple have two daughters Jacqueline and Yvonne, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

The Netherton couple on their big day

Ex-railway staff asked to pass on knowledge

FORMER railway workers are being asked to share their knowledge for a new archive project steaming ahead at Severn Valley Railway.

Volunteers want ex-employees to pass on their experiences to help them fill in the gaps.

Archivists at the heritage line's Engine House at Highley recently acquired an allocations board from the former Stourbridge Junction engine shed.

By Lee Watton

The board was a daily programme of engine movements from the shed – locomotives being allocated to scheduled freight and passenger duties.

Masters staff working at the shed would chalk up each of the movements on the board every day.

Volunteers at the archive at Highley have now launched a project to assemble information about engine movements from the shed on an imaginary but typical working day in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Timetables

But while they have been able to glean some information from passenger timetables and books about railways in the area, there are still substantial gaps.

Volunteer Alasdair Jones said they were looking for people with first-hand knowledge to come forward and share their experiences to build up a clearer picture.

"While we are beginning to build up a picture of shed activity it is incomplete and reliant on some degree to interpretation," he said.

"Ideally we would like to be able to get hold of some first-hand information about the shed from former British Railways employees who worked there or were involved with the operation of the railway in the Stourbridge area.

"If anyone feels they can help the railway in its researches about the Stourbridge shed during the period I would urge them to get in touch.

"All information would be very gratefully received."

To help, call Mr Jones on 07788 498077, send a e-mail to alasdair.jones1@ntlworld.com or write, for the attention of Mr Jones, to the Severn Valley Railway, the Engine House, Station Rd, Highley, Shropshire.

The heritage line will be holding a volunteer job fair on Saturday (April 11) at its Kidderminster station for people interested in giving some of their time to helping keep the railway on track.

It is taking place as part of the railway's members and shareholders weekend.

The heritage line attracts more than 200,000 visitors every year and has 1,300 committed volunteers.

The fair will be held between 10am and 4pm.

Workers' cars are target of vandals

VANDALS have been targeting council workers' cars in a Stourbridge park.

Staff have returned to their vehicles outside Dudley Council's office in Mary Stevens Park to find the tyres have been deflated. A number of cars have been scratched and nails have been placed on the car park.

Councillor Heather Rogers, chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park, said the matter had been reported to the police, adding there was no link between the damage and concerns about a shortage of parking spaces for visitors to the park.

An increasing number of employees are using the council's office as a result of the council's decision to move the children's services department from its previous location at Falcon House in Dudley.

West Midlands force spokesman Deborah Edmonds confirmed the nails incident had been reported to the police.

Hotly contested fight on cards for borough's seats

Radio WM presenter Adrian Goldberg chairs the debate at High Arcal School

DAVID Cameron and Ed Miliband are likely to have been losing sleep over the rise of Ukip – and the three constituencies in Dudley borough are a major target for Nigel Farage.

Report by Rob Cox

His party has seen a surge in support with council seats and the European Parliament elections. And issues surrounding immigration are top on the list of concerns for many of the borough's voters.

Of all the seats in the Black Country, none ran closer at the last election. Labour's Ian Austin was made to wait while votes were counted, and then counted again, but emerged with a slender majority of 649 votes.

This time around the seat could be a three-horse-race between Labour, the Conservatives and Ukip.

Conservative hopeful, Councillor Les Jones said his party's chances were "as good as they had ever been" in Dudley North, but regaining the trust of voters could be an uphill battle for him.

Labour's Ian Austin is standing for a third term in parliament having represented the constituency since 2005.

Also fighting for Dudley North is Ukip's Bill Etheridge, a Sedgley councillor and a Member of the European Parliament. Mr Etheridge and Mr Austin have had several heated exchanges in recent weeks, with polls suggesting it will be Ukip who run Labour closest.

Mr Etheridge has come under fire for suggesting he would cut university admissions. But he insists if elected he is best placed to represent local people.

The trio will be joined by former deputy leader of the Green Party, Will Duckworth, Liberal Democrat Mike Collins and firefighter David Pitt representing the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition.

Dudley's other parliamentary constituency, Dudley South, could also be a close-run race despite a comfortable victory for the Conservatives in 2010. Previous MP Chris Kelly is standing down after just one term, with the candidate to replace him being Dudley Councillor Mike Wood.

Father-of-two Mr Wood, aged 38, is a barrister who spent seven years working in the European Parliament. Fellow councillor Paul Brothwood is standing for Ukip, while Labour, who held the seat from its creation in 1997, have placed their faith in Natasha Millward who has been backed by the Unite trade union.

Former teacher Vicky Duckworth, wife of Will, is standing for the Green party. Making up the list of candidates for the Liberal Democrats is Martin Turner. A big issue during the Dudley South campaign is likely be the NHS. Paul Brothwood claims he is the only one fighting to ensure the NHS is free at the point of delivery.

Labour's Natasha Millward has talked up investment in 'thousands of new doctors and nurses.'

And Mike Wood has declared he too would fight for investment in Dudley, as a local man who relies on Russells Hall Hospital.

Defending

The borough's final seat will see the Conservatives defending a majority of 5,164 in Stourbridge.

Margot James, selected at the last election, is likely to hold on to her seat in the town famous for its glass-making. But Labour have put forward a strong local candidate in the form of Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe.

He is known in the town having represented Lye and Stourbridge North as a councillor since 2006.

Chris Bramall, who has lived in the constituency for 21 years, is standing for the Liberal Democrats and Christian Kiever for the Green party.

Ukip are also represented by West Midlands' MEP James Carver.

The BBC's Shaun Ley has set up camp in the town for the election.

ELECTION candidates in one of the Black Country's key battlegrounds went head-to-head in a 'Question Time' style hustings event.

The debate was the first official engagement for former council leader Les Jones who will stand for the Tories in Dudley North.

He was joined on the panel by Labour's Ian Austin, who held the seat in 2010 with a majority of 649 votes, Ukips' Bill Etheridge MEP and Green Party candidate Will Duckworth.

Councillor Jones said: "I believe in integrity in politics and think it is sad that we have lost a lot of faith from the public. I would like to make sure we rebuild that and that is what I'll be trying to do."

Councillor Jones is seen as a 'trusted' replacement having stood for Parliament in 2001 and 2005 in Halesowen and Rowley Regis. He also stood in the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner by-election last year and represents the Pedmore and Stourbridge East ward on Dudley Council.

Also taking part at High Arcal School, Sedgley, was former student Luke Bodin. The 17-year-old is too young to stand in the election but called for greater redistribution of wealth.

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   Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
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   To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
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13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

We plan to rebuild neighbourhood policing – Labour

Ian Austin, Jack Dromey and Natasha Millward

A LABOUR government would set about rebuilding neighbourhood policing in the wake of 'remorseless cuts' by the coalition, according to shadow policing minister Jack Dromey.

West Midlands Police is proposing to scale back neighbourhood policing as part of its 2020 future blueprint. Bosses have said teams will be given problems to target, rather than it being a 'universal offer'.

Speaking outside Dudley Police Station on a visit to the town last week, Mr Dromey, who is defending his seat in Erdington, said: "The great task for an incoming Labour government, as the party which built neighbourhood policing, is to be the party which rebuilds neighbourhood policing."

Mr Dromey told gathered supporters he backed the campaign by Ian Austin, defending a slender Labour majority in Dudley North, to save the front desk at Dudley Police Station from closure.

"We would certainly be asking West Midlands Police to think again on the closure of the front desk here at Dudley Police Station," he said."If it went ahead Dudley would be the biggest town in the region not to have a front desk open to the public.

"It is much loved and much used and I very much hope it remains open."

Mr Austin said: "We are campaigning on local services like police station closures and trying to prevent 400 redundancies at Russells Hall Hospital."

Tories remain hopeful over key constituency

CONSERVATIVE chief whip Michael Gove dropped into Sedgley and said he believed the Tories would still win the key battleground seat of Dudley North, despite their previous candidate stepping down.

The party was forced to choose a new candidate for the General Election at short notice after Afzal Amin resigned.

Former council leader Les Jones has now been chosen to try to make up lost ground after opinion polls suggested the Tories were in third place.

Mr Gove, the former education secretary, met with supporters at Sedgley Conservative Club.

He said: "Events with Afzal were clearly regrettable but it was one individual who made a big mistake and paid the price. Les is an impeccable candidate and exactly the person we need to win this."

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Mr Blue plaque as ELO star is commemorated

FANS joined family and friends of Electric Light Orchestra star Kelly Groucutt at the unveiling of a commemorative blue plaque outside the house where he was born and brought up.

Dudley Mayor Councillor Margaret Aston performed the honours and then spoke of the love and respect for the bass player, vocalist and father-of-four who died from a heart attack in 2009.

A quarter peal of bells rang out from nearby Christ Church, where he was christened, for 45 minutes. The occasion drew such a large crowd that Gough Road, Coseley had to be closed in both directions.

Kelly's sister Mrs Pamela Whale, aged 74, from Upper Gornal said: "It is a magic moment to see his work and music recognised in this way by so many people."

Spilling

Brother John, 72, added: "He was known throughout the world but never forgot where his roots were."

Another brother Tony, aged 75, looked at the crowd spilling across the street and recalled with a smile: "This has meant everything to us.

"His first band used to rehearse in the cellar of the house and made so much noise the ground shook. I used to warn him that one day they would have to close the road because of him and now they have."

Members of Kelly's first band, Ricky Burns and the Vibras – named after a guitar – were also at the ceremony. Jimmy Groucutt, now 72, and living in Bilston, but not related, said: "We started playing when he was 15 and we were together for two and half years. Fame never changed him."

At the unveiling are ex-band members from Ricky Burns and the Vibras

Mayor of Dudley Margaret Aston with Groucutt family members for the ceremony

Councillor Aston said: "He was a very much loved son of Dudley and the respect in which he is held is illustrated by the size of the turn out."

Fans Thomas Hoyer aged 56 and his 53-year-old wife Conny flew in from their home in Potsdam in Germany to be at the unveiling ceremony, and explained: "We loved his music. He was a great musician and a lovely man."

Kelly, who was born Michael William Groucutt, lived in Coseley from 1945 to 1967.

The house is now owned by Mr Jake Hill and his wife Coleen who have lived there since 1994.

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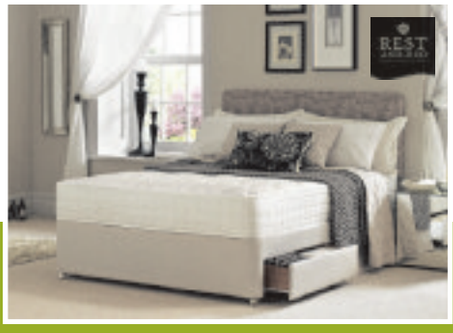

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Thursday 7pm - 9pm
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Tuesday 7pm - 8.30pm
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Tap Dancing
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Course duration: **5 weeks** Price: **£27.50**

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Spiritual Awareness (Beginners)
Tuesday 6pm- 7.30pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£41**

Spiritual Awareness (Int/Adv)
Tuesday 7pm - 9pm
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▲ *Demonstration Fee applicable*
▲ *No Concession* ▲ *1st week will run for 30mins extra*
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Wednesday 7pm - 8.30pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£41**

(Mixed Ability)
Wednesday 7.30pm - 9pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£41**

Singing for Fun
(All Welcome)
Wednesday 6pm - 7pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£29**

Guitars
(Beginners)
Wednesday 6pm - 7pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£29**

(Improvers)
Wednesday 7pm - 8pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£29**

(Intermediates)
Wednesday 8pm - 9.30pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£41**

Language Courses

Holiday French (Beginners)
Wednesday 7pm - 9.00pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£53**

Holiday Italian
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Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£35**

(Improvers)
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Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£35**

(Advanced)
Wednesday 5.45pm - 7.00pm
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Holiday Spanish
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Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£41**

(Improvers)
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Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£41**

Conversation Spanish (Advanced)
Thursday 7.30pm - 9pm
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▲ **Floristry** (Mixed Ability)
Thursday 7pm - 9pm (wedding flowers, bouquets etc)
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£58**

How to use a Sewing Machine ▲
Monday 7pm - 9pm (Beginners)
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£53**

Sewing (Improvers)
Tuesday 7pm - 9pm
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Face Painting (Beginners) ▲
Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Course duration: **5 weeks** Price: **£35**

Woodwork (Beginners) ▲
Monday 7pm - 9pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£53**

Woodwork (Improvers)
Monday 7pm - 9pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£53**

Career Qualification Courses

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▲ **Paediatric First Aid**
4 weeks £60
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▲ **Basic Food Hygiene**
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British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 - Unit 103
Wednesday 7pm - 9pm
Course duration: **10 weeks** Price: **£65** (excludes exam fee)

▲ **Cake Decorating** △
(Wired Sugar Flowers, Roses, Carnations etc) **Monday 7pm - 9pm**
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£55**

▲ **Cake Decorating** (Beginners) △
(Royal Icing, Marzipan, Sugar Paste etc) **Wednesday 7pm - 9pm**
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£55**

▲ **Cake Decorating & Flower Making** (Int) △
Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Course duration: **8 weeks** Price: **£55**

All Courses start week commencing 20/4/2015
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Canvassing – from bins to stilettos . . .

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

Addressing supporters – Eddie Izzard complete with nail varnish and heels

MICHAEL Gove picked up the blown-over brown wheelie bin and put it neatly back where it belonged.

The former Education Secretary, now Tory Chief Whip, was doing a little bit of a good deed while out canvassing in Wolverhampton.

Limes Road in Tettenhall had turned into some sort of savage ecosystem. Bright, glorious sunshine one minute, rain lashing down the next and topped off with gusts of wind threatening to drag the leaflets from his hands before he could stuff them through anyone's letterbox.

Wolverhampton South West's Conservatives called in the big guns for the first week of the General Election campaign. And with good reason. Paul Uppal's majority is just 691 votes.

Helicopter

The following day we would get a visit from both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor to Banks's Brewery, where the Marston's boss Ralph Findlay had just backed them in a letter to the Daily Telegraph.

They would arrive by helicopter and get picked up in a Jaguar before being driven to their appointment in style.

But on the street in Tettenhall the Chief Whip was putting in the leg work. Most of the knocks on the door went unanswered.

Perhaps this was a good sign for the Tories. Maybe it was evidence that their long-term economic plan was working and that everyone was out at a job. One man announced he was going to vote for the Scottish National Party. To be honest, they're probably going to be the biggest winners after the vote on May 7 anyway so it wasn't a bad shout.

A woman came out of her house and gave Mr Gove what for about the pressure that headteachers are under. She was especially concerned about the targets they have to meet.

The former education secretary listened and the woman apologised for having a 'whinge'. Mr Gove said she was doing no such thing and offered to raise her concerns with the Prime Minister. After all, education is no longer his brief. It's now in the hands of Nicky Morgan.

Something did occur to me that should probably have occurred to the Conservatives too. If the Tories cannot win in lovely, leafy Tettenhall, then they are never going to have a majority government again.

Eddie Izzard brought a bit of star quality to Labour's election campaign in the key marginal seat of Halesowen and Rowley Regis. The comedian visited in support of candidate Stephanie Peacock.

He's been all over the West Midlands and beyond backing Labour.

It's certainly useful for any political party to have a star backer. But will anyone who met Eddie Izzard remember he was there to tell them to vote Labour? Or will they just tell their friends they spent part of the day with a comedian? And how does he manage to canvass in those heels?

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Count on Arthur – Page 23

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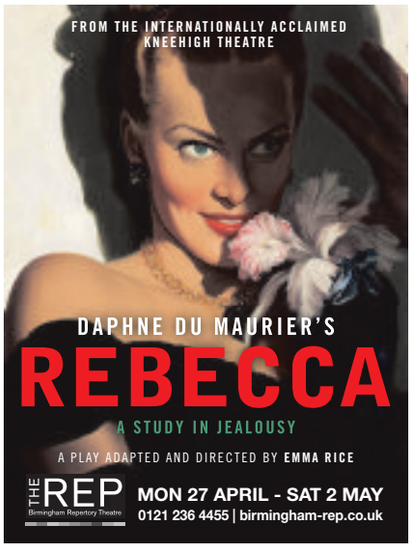

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5 DAY TOURS DEPART MON 11 MAY

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Weston-s-Mare	£179.95
Folkestone & Ostend	£169.95
Sandown, Isle of Wight	£179.95
Torquay & Eden Project	£199.95
Brighton	£199.95
Eastbourne	£149.95
Bournemouth	£179.95
Shanklin, Isle of Wight	£199.95
Babbacombe	£169.95
Tintagel & Padstow	£249.95

5 DAY TOURS DEPART MON 18 MAY

Cumbrae Island & Ayr	£179.95
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Torquay	£189.95
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Llandudno	£189.95
Blackpool	£149.95
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Folkestone & Ostend	£169.95
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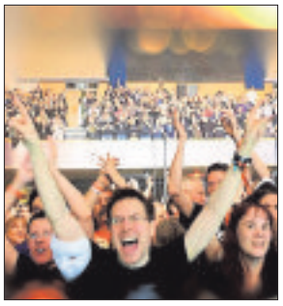
Paul Simon & Sting

Sunday, 7.30pm
Genting Arena, B'ham
Sting and Paul Simon, two of music's most seminal artists, will bring their On Stage Together tour to Birmingham on Sunday featuring a massive 30-plus song set.
Visit **www.gentingarena.co.uk**

Marillion Weekend



Friday - Sun
Civic Hall, W'ton
The Marillion Weekend 2015 – UK will take place over three nights at the Civic in Wolverhampton. The concerts will feature a different show every night for fans of the band.
Visit **www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

Simple Minds

Saturday, 7pm
O2 Academy, B'ham
Fresh from their renaissance, and deserved reappraisal, Simple Minds have a brand new album, 'Big Music' to promote. Simple Minds will play two sets with an interval.
www.o2academybirmingham.co.uk

Who Do You Think You Are?

Thursday – April 18
NEC, B'ham
Inspired by the television series of the same name, Who Do You Think You Are? Live is well-established event offering expert advice to both novice and experienced family historians.
Visit **www.thenec.co.uk**

ROCK & POP

Paul Simon & Sting
Sun at 7.30pm,
£51.32 - £138.20
Genting Arena, National Exhibition Centre , Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Marillion Weekend
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 6pm,
£118
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Simple Minds
Saturday at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Permageddon – The 80s Pop Show
Sun at 8pm, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Quill
Friday at 7.30pm,
£15 - £19.50
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Talon – Best Of Eagles
Friday at 7pm,
£14.50 - £24.25
The Wulfrun, Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH.
Call 01902 552106

Hey Beatles
Saturday at 8pm, £16
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

T.Rextasy – 'Get It On'
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£13 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

La Villa Strangiato
Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Anglagard
Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £17
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Food Fighterz
Friday at 8pm, £8
The River Rooms, Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177

Benjamin Folke Thomas
Thu at 7.30pm, £8
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Wombats
Friday at 7pm, £19.12
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Nik Turner's New Space Ritual
Sun at 8pm, £12
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Michael Ball
Sun at 7.30pm, £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Timothy Morris
Thu at 1.10pm - 2pm, £6
Kidderminster Town Hall, DY10 1DB.
Call 01562 732158

La Boheme – English Touring Opera
Mon at 7.30pm,
£11.50 - £27.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Siege of Calais
Tue at 7.30pm,
£11.50 - £27.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

CBSO Mendelssohn's Midsummer
Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £41
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Stourport Brass Band
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£8 - £10
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

SOUL

Newhampton Soul Club
Saturday at 8pm - 1am,
£4 - £5
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

The Jersey 4
Saturday at 7pm, £25.95
West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, DY12 1LF.
Call 01299 40211

Magic of Motown
Friday at 8pm, £21.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Andy Irvine
Wed at 7.45pm, £12
Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7LY.
Call 0121 472 4253

Larkin Poe
Wed at 7.30pm, £13 - £15
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Anthony John Clarke
Thu at 8.30pm, £5
Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, WV3 4BP. Call 07910 632695

JAZZ & BLUES

Steve Howe – Solo Tour
Thu at 7.30pm, £20 - £22
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Slowburner
Saturday at 7.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

THEATRE

Essence of Ireland
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£16 - £26.90
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Sun at 7.30pm, £16 - £26.90
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Derren Brown
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm,
£39.90
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Tall Stories: The Snail and the Whale
Friday at 10.30am, 1.30pm,
£8 - £28
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Shrek the Musical
Friday, Saturday, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Sun at 1pm, 5pm, Saturday at 2.30pm,
£18.50 - £45
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

HMS Pinafore
Wed, Thu at 7.30pm,
£9 - £10
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Grease
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday at 2.30pm,
£13 - £20
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Beautiful Thing
Friday, Saturday at 2.30pm, 7.45pm, £30
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Feed The Beast
Thu at 7.45pm, £12 - £20
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

The Basil Brush Show
Mon at 11am, 2.30pm,
£12 - £45
Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

DogFight
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm,
£12.50
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Cell
Wed at 7.30pm, £8 - £10
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

The Ghost Train
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday at 2.30pm,
£12 - £25.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Pinocchio
Tue at 2.30pm, £8.50 - £34
Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

COMEDY

Patrick Monahan
Friday at 7.30pm, £14
The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

Jo Enright – Erdington Girl
Saturday at 8pm, £10 - £12
Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Matt Forde
Friday at 7pm, £10 - £11
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552106

FAMILY EVENTS

Chris and Pui Roadshow
Saturday at 11am, 2pm,
£10 - £43
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Easter Workshop
Mon, Tue, Wed at 10am - 4pm,
£30
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Easter Eggstravaganza
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Free
West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, DY12 1LF.
Call 01299 40211

TALKS

Titanic – Midlands Connections
Mon at 7.30pm - 9pm, £2
Walsall Local History Centre, Walsall, WS2 7AS.
Call 01922 721305

'Wines from the Hedgerow'
Thu at 7pm, £5
Winterbourne House and Garden, University of Birmingham, B15 2RT.
Call 0121 414 3003

OTHER EVENTS

Who Do You Think You Are? Live 2015
Thu at 9.30am - 5.30pm,
£16 - £33
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Gadget Show Live
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 9am,
£22.99 - £31.99
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Charity Disco Night
Friday at 7pm, £3 - £8
Spring Meadow Social Club, Cradley Heath, B64 6LB.
Call 01384 569602

Meet Our Vegetable Garden Team
Mon at 11am - 1pm, Free
Moseley Old Hall, Moseley Old Hall Lane, Featherstone, Wolverhampton, WV10 7HY.
Call 01902 782808

Wedding Fair 2015
Sun at 11am, Free
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Antiques for Everyone Spring Fair
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 9am - 5pm, £12
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

LOCAL CINEMA

The Hundred-Foot Journey
Thu at 7.30pm, £3 - £5
Claverley Village Hall, Church Street, Wolverhampton, WV5 7DA.
Call 01746 710239

NT Live The Hard Problem
Thu at 7pm, £10 - £19.50
Artrix Arts Centre, Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Thu at 7pm, £10 - £19.50
Light House, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Thu at 7pm, £10 - £19.50
mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Thu at 7pm, £10 - £19.50
Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station Street, Birmingham, B5 4DY. Call 0121 643 7879

White God
Friday at 6pm, Saturday at 8.10pm, Sun at 7.45pm, Mon at 2pm, £7.50
mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Tour has X Factor for star Alexandra

Lady in red –Alexandra with dancers in a scene from the show

X FACTOR winner Alexandra Burke will reprise her West End role as soul star Rachel Marron in Thea Sharrock's hit musical The Bodyguard at Wolverhampton.

The stage version of the 1992 Oscar-nominated movie, that starred Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, will be at the Grand Theatre from April 21 to May 2.

Miss Burke said "I couldn't be happier to be joining the tour and I'm excited to get started. Being on the theatre stage has brought me great happiness.

"It is an honour to have been asked to join the team and I look forward to creating new and long lasting memories with the cast."

She rose to fame winning the fifth series of The X Factor and her debut single Hallelujah went on to sell more than one million copies in the UK. Her first album Overcome also featured the chart-topping singles Bad Boys and Start Without You. She has toured in her own right and as support for Beyonce, and went on to take over from Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight in The Bodyguard on the London stage.

At matinee performances the leading role will be played by Pop Idol finalist Zoe Birkett. The Bodyguard returns for a run at Birmingham Hippodrome in August.

Count on this for good time

ON one of his previous appearances in Birmingham the bespectacled buffoon who is Count Arthur Strong had difficulty navigating his way through the theatre curtains and was convinced the stage was facing the wrong way until he turned around.

Since then the Harry Worth throwback, has made the leap from radio to the gogglebox and has won critical acclaim.

The twisted world of Count Arthur, played and written wonderfully by Steve Delaney, is littered with characters who are as out of touch with modern society as he is.

Disasters

Strong's Radio 4 comedy shows started 10 years ago and have run for seven series so far and focus upon the everyday disasters of the once "famous" star of variety who has never really lost his sense of being a showbiz master, even though he is the only one who holds that opinion.

This mixed-up character never misses an opportunity to express his extensive knowledge about entertainment and the rest of the world, of which he is an expert. He has even sent a personal message to theatregoers.

"If you only buy one ticket for something this year buy a ticket for this one twice and bring a friend. I promise you won't regret it. And if you do there must be something wrong with you. No refunds."

He brings his Somebody Up There Licks Me show to the New Alexandra in Birmingham on April 17.

Electro dub pioneers in exclusive live date

ELECTRO dub pioneers Dreadzone are returning to the Black Country with an exclusive live appearance at The Robin 2 in Bilston.

The core members Greg Dread, original bassmaster Leo Williams, the unmistakable MC Spee, legendary reggae vocalist Earl 16 alongside Chris Compton on guitar and Bazil on technology make up the current Dreadzone live line up.

As well as live favourites from their back catalogue the band will be playing tracks from Escapades at their show tomorrow.

Tickets are £15 advance and £17 on the door. Call the box office on 01902 401211 or book online at www.therobin.co.uk

Musical feast is on the Cafe menu

LARKIN Poe take the stage at the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham on Wednesday, April 15 with support from Raevennan Husbandes.

This is a standing only show which is being staged at the Hare & Hounds, York Road, King's Heath and tickets are £13 in advance or £15 on the night. Doors open 7.30pm and the show starts 8pm.

Stourbridge Folk Club hosts founder member of The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils, Eddy Morton for the launch of his new album, Rainbow Man, on April 16. Tickets are £5 and doors open 8pm.

New Wulfrun date for Dr Hook gig

THE Dr Hook gig – postponed after lead singer Ray Sawyer was injured in a fall – has been rearranged for Thursday, May 14 at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton.

The show was meant to take place in March but Sawyer broke his arm so the remaining eight dates of the Hooked on Hits tour had to be postponed. All tickets for the original date remain valid for the new date.

Dr Hook enjoyed considerable success in the 1970s with hit singles including When You're in Love with a Beautiful Woman. Tickets, £29.15 are available from Midland Box Office: 0870 320 7000.

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, April 9, 2015

Deliciously light – Garstang Blue cheesecake with pear jelly and toasted hazelnuts

Classy joint – The Fox at Chetwynd Aston

Coriander and lime chicken, pak choi and noodle salad with thai coconut dressing

Sitting comfortably in welcoming surroundings

Whichever way you look at it this classy Fox is a real winner

By Andy Richardson

IF The Fox had a trophy cabinet, it would look something like the one Sir Alex Ferguson filled during his tenure at Man Utd.

In recent years, The Fox at Chetwynd Aston, Newport has enjoyed wins from five respected guide books.

Since 2007, it's featured in the Good Pub Guide, winning its County Dining Pub of the Year more times than any restaurant ought.

It's a perennial feature of the AA Pub Guide, it never misses a spot in the Good Beer Guide, Alastair Sawday rates it as though it had some sort of divine right and even Michelin has included it in its listing for the UK's best pubs.

They say that when you find a successful recipe, you ought to bottle it. Not that that advice has reached The Fox. They tend to bottle ales, fine wines and a deliciously fruity juice called Bumbleberry. Recipes are saved for the kitchen.

The Fox is part of the Brunning and Price group, which also owns The Armoury, in Shrewsbury. It's one of the region's finest pub groups, coupling decent, generously-portioned food at affordable prices and an impressive selection of drinks with good standards of service. The quality of both food and service at The Fox is resolutely high.

It's been the foodie equivalent of some sort of 21st century winning machine, notching up success after success as it continues to out-gun, out-run and out-strip the competition.

I'm not convinced with the Good Pub Guide's adjudication that it's the very best dining pub in Shropshire – I can think of others where food is of a higher quality – but it certainly deserves its recognition. It is undoubtedly one of the very best.

The Fox is a large Edwardian-style pub with a mix of quiet nooks and crannies, bright sunny rooms and a busy central bar.

During weekends, high days and holidays, its largest vaulted room leads out onto a south-facing terrace, with views over the gently-rolling countryside and wooded hills beyond.

Strengths

When my friend and I visited, our thoughts couldn't have been further from al fresco dining on summery afternoons. We met for dinner a deux on a decidedly chilly evening, when the wind was blowing a hooley.

One of the key strengths of The Fox is its staff. Overwhelmingly well-mannered and polite, they are well-drilled and pay attention to detail at all times. Despite the invariable rush at the bar, they remain relatively unflustered and their youthful exuberance and energy transmits itself to diners.

It's a classy operation. But the food is my favourite part. And on my most recent visit, it didn't disappoint. The Fox isn't at the standards of, say, a Michelin Bib Gourmand venue. Nor is it particularly finessed. It does, however, offer an innovative and creative selection of seasonal food at reasonable prices.

It's no surprise that The Fox notches up accolades like a lothario adding notches to a bedpost. It consistently achieves high standards, provides a great environment for meeting-and-eating and a menu that offers more than same-same-staples like fish-and-chips, or lasagne with garlic bread.

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Saturday Night Theatre from £159.95
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.95
This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days
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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.*

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For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

CHOICE

Amanda Mealing

Casualty (BBC1, 9.20pm)
A pregnant young woman gives birth in the back of Dixie's ambulance - but when her pushy teacher arrives at the hospital claiming to be adopting the baby, Connie suspects the confused new mum was coerced into the agreement. A schoolboy takes revenge on the bully who is making his life a misery, although it backfires when both his tormentor and his teacher are badly injured. Cal is hurting following Taylor's disappearance and apologises to Ethan for stealing his money. Hospital drama with the staff of Holby's accident and emergency department as they deal with more sick and injured patients. Starring Amanda Mealing, Derek Thompson, George Rainsford and Richard Winsor.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights. **2.15** Golf: The Masters Highlights. **3.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **4.15** Rowing: The Boat Races. Live coverage of the men's and women's University Boat Races on the River Thames, as Oxford aim to retain their titles against traditional rivals Cambridge.
6.35 BBC News.
6.45 Regional Programme.
6.55 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous faces take part in the general knowledge quiz in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.
8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. New series. Quiz in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
9.20 Casualty. A pregnant young woman gives birth in the back of Dixie's ambulance – but when her pushy teacher arrives at the hospital claiming to be adopting the baby, Connie suspects the confused new mum was coerced into the agreement. A schoolboy takes revenge on the bully who is making his life a misery, although it backfires when both his tormentor and his teacher are badly injured. Cal is hurting following Taylor's disappearance and apologises to Ethan for stealing his money.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Aston Villa at White Hart Lane and Burnley v Arsenal at Turf Moor.
11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.
1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 TBA. **6.45 Film:** The Magic Box. (1951) Biopic of cinema pioneer William Friese-Greene, starring Robert Donat.
8.30 Film: The Man from Laramie. (1955) Western, starring James Stewart.
10.10 Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments. (R) **10.40** Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments. (R) **11.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.30** A Taste of Britain. **2.00 Film:** The Philadelphia Story. (1940) Romantic comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. **3.50** Flog It! **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Kew on a Plate. (R)
6.30 Gardeners' World. As the weather begins to warm up, there's plenty to be getting on with in the garden, with Monty Don welcoming viewers back to Longmeadow and offering advice on which tasks people should be getting on with at this time of the year. (R)
7.00 Dad's Army. The Walmington platoon plans to stage a re-enactment of the St George and the dragon story as part of the Wings for Victory fundraising campaign, but discovers Hodges and the ARP wardens have had the same idea. Vintage comedy first shown in 1977, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)
7.30 Golf: The Masters Live. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues. Overnight leader and eventual champion Bubba Watson had his worst round of the tournament at this stage last year, carding a two-over-par 74 that allowed 20-year-old Jordan Spieth to gain four strokes and join him at the top of the leaderboard. A strong European contingent never quite managed to challenge Watson for the title, with the likes of Lee Westwood, Thomas Bjorn, Jonas Blixt and Miguel Angel Jimenez all in with a chance in the latter stages, but unable to put enough pressure on the American victor. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
12.00 Film: The Private Lives of Pippa Lee. (2009) A middle-aged woman forced to live in a dull retirement community by her older husband looks back on her wild youth. Drama, starring Robin Wright, Alan Arkin and Winona Ryder.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Share a Story: Get Creative. **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40 Film:** Scooby-Doo. (2002) The dog and his chums reunite to solve a baffling mystery on the tourist resort of Spooky Island. Live-action comedy adventure, with Sarah Michelle Gellar and Matthew Lillard. **3.20** Off Their Rockers. (R) **3.50** The Unforgettable Benny Hill. (R) **4.30** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents.
7.00 Ninja Warriors UK.
8.00 Britain's Got Talent. New series. Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete for the chance to win a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance.
9.20 Play to the Whistle.
10.05 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Film: Backdraft. (1991) The two sons of a fireman who died in the line of duty follow him into the profession. However, a feud develops between them because the elder brother is convinced his sibling is not up to the job – until a mission to uncover the identity of a serial arsonist gives him the chance to prove his worth. Action drama, starring Kurt Russell, William Baldwin, Robert De Niro, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Donald Sutherland.
12.50 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas.
3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R)
3.40 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** The Grid. **8.00** Grand National – Morning Line. **10.00** Grand National – Saturday Brunch. **1.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of the third day of the Grand National meeting. **3.25** Channel 4 Racing: Grand National. Live coverage of the world's most famous steeplechase at Aintree. **5.15** TBA. **5.50** Channel 4 News.
6.20 Film: Independence Day. (1996) A fleet of huge flying saucers launches a devastating and unprovoked attack on Earth. As survivors try to flee the seemingly unstoppable alien invaders, the courageous US president, an ace pilot and a computer genius come up with a plan to take the fight to the enemy and save the human race. Roland Emmerich's sci-fi adventure, starring Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum, Mary McDonnell, Randy Quaid, Robert Loggia and Harry Connick Jr.
9.00 Film: I Give It a Year. (2013) Premiere. A couple marry after a whirlwind romance, but family and friends have doubts about the relationship. As their first anniversary approaches, they both begin to wonder if they are right for each other, especially when faced with more appealing alternative partners. Romantic comedy, with Rose Byrne, Rafe Spall, Anna Faris and Simon Baker.
11.00 Film: She's All That. (1999) A popular teenager bets his friends he can turn a shy and frumpy female student into a prom queen. Romantic comedy, starring Freddie Prinze Jr and Rachael Leigh Cook.
12.50 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Grand National Special. Another chance to see the Grand National-themed edition of the comedian's regular chat show, in which he looked ahead to a weekend of horse-racing. With music by Nick Jonas. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Theresa makes a shocking discovery, while Darren takes matters into his own hands, and Esther despairs for Phoebe. (R) **4.00** Secret Location. Sunita Shroff helps a couple who want to find a house in Oxfordshire, but cannot afford a family home in the picturesque town of Thame and have hardly looked anywhere else. (R) **5.00** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Phil visits Worthing, West Sussex, where he helps a couple who want to sell the grand Victorian house they have called home for the past 30 years. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.50** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.15** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.10 Film:** Columbo: Sex and the Married Detective. (1989) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.
4.00 Film: Columbo: The Most Crucial Game. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Robert Culp. **5.20** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)
6.15 TBA.
7.05 Police Interceptors. Officers are forced to exercise caution when they stop an uninsured driver who is known to have a violent past, while Jon Peacock and police dog Brad are on the hunt for suspected burglars. Sarah Capes gets a whiff of something illegal, Mike Templeman pulls over a white van with rather too many faults and one unlucky driver discovers that there is no fooling Dan Brigginshaw. (R)
8.00 5 News Weekend.
8.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. A taxi driver is murdered just hours after sending an e-mail to an old alias that Callen used when he went undercover to investigate three marines who stole $5million. (R)
9.00 NCIS. A Navy lieutenant is found dead in the Pentagon's custodial closet, and surveillance footage indicates she was killed by a co-worker. However, Ziva and the team discover her supposed assailant actually died of a heart attack days before the crime was committed. Meanwhile, suspicions are raised regarding the eyeball left in Tony's drink, and the investigators' attention is fixed on the port-to-port murderer, who appears to still be at large. (R)
10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. New evidence leads Sara to reopen a 10-year-old case in which a man was convicted of killing his wife and daughter before turning his gun on himself.
10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. The team tries to solve the murder of a paediatrician who had threatened to sue his former employers and the police after being convicted of sexually assaulting patients. (R)
11.50 Access. Showbiz news and gossip.
12.00 SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave **7.45 Film:** Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005) **9.05 Film:** Enemy of the State (1998) **11.05** Family Guy **1.00** Bluestone 42 **1.30** Killer Magic **2.00** Uncle **3.25** TBA **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Ice Age Giants **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.30** Kings of Rock 'n' Roll **12.30** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.05** Timeshift: Mods, Rockers and Bank Holiday Mayhem **2.05** Wild China **3.05** Ice Age Giants **4.05** Close
ITV2
11.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.00** Britain's Got More Talent: Amanda's Top Ten Moments **2.00** Britain's Got More Talent: Alesha's Top Ten Moments **3.00** Britain's Got More Talent: David's Top Ten Moments **4.00** Mr Bean **5.10 Film:** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **7.30 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.30** Britain's Got More Talent **1.30** Hell's Kitchen USA **2.20** Crazy Beaches **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.35 Wycliffe **3.50** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** A Is for Acid **12.05** Inspector Morse
ITV4
11.30 Pawn Stars **12.30** Counting Cars **1.20** British Superbike Championship Highlights **2.20** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **3.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.00** Storage Wars: New York **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Shed and Buried **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Sudden Impact (1983) **11.25 Film:** Crank (2006) **1.10 Film:** Boogeyman (2004) **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen
E4
11.00 Melissa & Joey **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** TBA **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** TBA **11.40** Rude Tube **12.35** Channel 4's Comedy Gala **1.35** Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos **2.35** The 100 **3.20** How I Met Your Mother **4.05** Baby Daddy **4.45** TBA
Film4
11.00 Anastasia (1997) **1.00** Tales from Earthsea (2006) **3.15** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **4.50** 27 Dresses (2008) **7.00** 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) **9.00** Hot Tub Time Machine (2010) **10.55** The Football Factory (2004)

ADVERTISEMENT

Life's in full bloom

Embracing a new-found confidence, keen gardener Shirley says sharing smiles is now so totally natural

SHE laughs easily, smiles a lot and loves company, with this 70-something-year-old enjoying a fresh confidence in her day-to-day living.

Fun-loving Shirley Foster, a passionate gardener and keen modern sequence dancer can't wait for some sunshine and watch her collection of blooms spring into life.

"I love my collection of poppies. They look stunning with their large colourful flower heads and gardening is a real therapy," she says.

Admitting she "is very privileged to be so fit", Shirley walks wherever she can – she doesn't drive – and for the first time in years is living life with spontaneity she has not known for years. Not that she has ever failed to embraced the chance to wring every last drop of living out of live, but troublesome teeth and ill-fitting dentures were for ever eroding confidence.

Her problems began when she was at school and a life dogged with dental issues followed.

"My two front teeth went bad and had to have crowns fitted on posts. It was the days of the school dentist and I had to go – everyone dreaded it. I had never been in so much pain with the treatment.

"I religiously attended the dentists every six months to try and keep out of trouble, but as the years went by I seemed to pick up more problems and gradually started to lose my teeth with one abscess after another.

"For 30 years or more, I've had a partial top plate, but it kept breaking. The bottom plate was worse as it seemed to have a mind of its own."

Refusing to be beaten by her ill-fitting dentures, Shirley, a former employee at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, carried an essential denture rescue package wherever she went.

Free consultation

"I'd go nowhere without a tube of fixative in my handbag – no matter what I was doing," she recalls.

"I was always putting my hand in front of my mouth and raising a finger to my top denture to make sure it was in place. Unable to do anything more for me, my dentist referred me to see someone in Birmingham but it was too far for me to travel from Wednesbury," she adds.

It was then Shirley discovered the Denture Clinic after reading an article in her local free paper.

Hoping for a solution, she booked a free consultation. Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, principal at the Denture Clinic, says: "She came to our Wolverhampton clinic and it was clear she had stabilisation problems with her dentures. A guaranteed solution for her bottom prescription was for over-dentures to be secured by a couple of implants. We made a high quality top denture and the combined effect of using both therapies is excellent. Not only do Shirley's teeth look great, they are also functional."

Adds Shirley: "It's lovely to have the freedom now of not having to worry about whether my teeth would pop out if I coughed or sneezed. I love to talk to people, but now I can smile as well.

"I feel confident that my teeth are secure, my bottom denture being firmly on the implant 'press studs'."

In recent years Shirley has found love second time around. "I lost my long-term partner a few years ago, but now I have a very special friend. I met him at a tea dance. Ironically, he'd just been to his dentists and heard the music and decided to pop in. I'm very privileged and my daughter helps keep my outlook young especially when I'm shopping for clothes," adds Shirley.

"I can't fault the treatment I received and I'm very pleased with my teeth. Steven was lovely and so were all the staff at the Denture Clinic and Jon Pugh's practice in Wolverhampton where the implants were fitted."

• Jon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry) GDC 62663, is principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

The 30-second denture check

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Denture Clinic

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, April 9, 2015

CHOICE

Gregg Wallace & John Torode

MasterChef (BBC1, 7.30pm)

Restaurateur John Torode and radio presenter Gregg Wallace host the cookery competition as contestants are put through gruelling culinary challenges to test not just their skills, but also their knowledge of food and ability to cope in a professional kitchen. The semi-finals begin with the eight hopefuls split into teams of four and challenged to the Relay Invention test, in which both groups must come up with a single dish between them. Using a chicken and a range of vegetables, herbs and spices, each team member has just 20 minutes to make their contribution - but as they cannot speak, they must leave clues behind to help their team-mates decipher what the dish is supposed to be. Continues tomorrow.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix. **3.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.25** Points of View. **4.40** Songs of Praise. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. The latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.30 MasterChef. John Torode and Gregg Wallace present the cookery competition, as a series of contestants are put through gruelling culinary challenges.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Belton House in Lincolnshire. Items include a ceramic model of London Zoo's first elephant from the late 19th century, an engraved glass vase won at a fair in the 1920s, a collection of memorabilia relating to the Duke of Windsor and a children's chair in the shape of a starfish. There's also an interview with Professor Timon Screech about Britain's centuries of trade with Japan, accompanied by an ornate lacquer chest that may have arrived with the first shipment of Japanese treasures in 1614.

9.00 Poldark. Ross finds there is a fever at Bodmin Jail, and when he discovers that Jim is near death, he and Dwight embark on a desperate course of action to save their friend.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Gabby Logan reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Manchester City at Old Trafford and Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea at Loftus Road.

11.30 Film: The Last Castle. (2001) A court-martialled general sent to a high-security military jail sets out to bring down the cruel warden. Thriller, starring Robert Redford.

1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **12.50** A Taste of Britain. (R) **1.20 Film:** Little Women. (1949) Four sisters find maturity and romance during the American Civil War. Oscar-winning drama based on Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, starring June Allyson and Elizabeth Taylor. **3.15** Triathlon. **4.45** TBA. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 Golf: The Masters Live. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the fourth and final day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year reaches a conclusion. America's Bubba Watson secured his second title in three years here 12 months ago, finishing three strokes clear of compatriot Jordan Spieth and Sweden's Jonas Blixt. England's Lee Westwood was the highest-placed British player in seventh place, with Northern Ireland's world number one Rory McIlroy and 57-year-old German Bernhard Langer among those one shot behind him. The drought for British winners here goes all the way back to 1996, when Nick Faldo secured the third of his Green Jackets, and despite a strong representation among the world's elite, European golfers have also struggled to make their mark here for a surprisingly long time. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 Film: First Snow. (2006) A salesman stranded in a remote New Mexico town is told by a psychic that he will die the next day that it snows. As the weather grows colder, he becomes obsessed with revisiting his past as he strives to find a way to change his destiny before it is too late. Thriller, starring Guy Pearce, Piper Perabo, William Fichtner and JK Simmons. **1.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile. Matt Baker finds out the importance of rabbits in the Brecklands of Norfolk, Ellie Harrison forages for metal to make sculptures, and James Wong launches the Grow Wild campaign. (R) **2.30** Holby City. Jonny is released from prison but it seems there will be no chance of a quiet return to work. Sacha is delighted to see Essie again, while Arthur suffers first-day nerves on AAU. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **2.30** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.50** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.35** Ninja Warriors UK. (R) **5.35** You've Been Framed! (R)

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four celebrity contestants pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

7.30 Off Their Rockers. Hidden-camera show in which fearless senior citizens play pranks on the public.

8.00 Vera. When the remains of a teenager are found half-buried in a woods, Vera finds herself investigating a 30-year-old mystery. Identified as Carrie Telling, a girl who disappeared during the 1984 miners' strike, the team retrieves news footage from the protests that shows her taking pictures in the background. It appears she got caught up in the unrest that day, contradicting her father's assertion that she went straight home. Photographs recovered from her camera yield further revelations for Vera. What did Carrie discover that ultimately led to her death?

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Olivier Awards 2015.

12.00 Premiership Rugby Union. **12.45** The Store. Home shopping. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.10** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.40** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. **7.05** British GT Championship. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.55 Film:** Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) Premiere. A boy learns the story of a strange creature who tried to prevent the destruction of his forest home. Animated fantasy, with the voices of Danny DeVito and Zac Efron.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Three in a Bed. Guest houses compete for the title of best B&B – a competition judged by counting up the profits when guests pay only what they consider their stay to have been worth.

8.00 TBA.

9.00 Indian Summers. Drama set during the summer of 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India. Starring Julie Walters, Henry Lloyd-Hughes, Jemima West, Craig Parkinson and Amber Rose Revah.

10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.10 Film: In Fear. (2013) A couple go to Ireland for a music festival, but get hopelessly lost when driving through a series of country roads. Their plight turns deadly as they are terrorised by mysterious figures lurking in the darkness, while an encounter with a seemingly harmless local brings dangers of its own. Horror, starring Iain De Caestecker, Alice Englert and Allen Leech.

12.40 Film: Bhuvan Shome. (1969) A domineering railway official lives by a strict set of rules, and treats the staff working under him harshly. While on holiday, he befriends a free-spirited woman who encourages him to take a more relaxed outlook on life – but then discovers she is in love with one of his employees, whom he intends to dismiss. Comedy drama, starring Utpal Dutt and Suhasini Mulay. In Hindi, Bengali and Gujarati. Part of the Indian Film season. **2.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** TBA. **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Zack and Quack. **8.20** TBA. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.05** LazyTown. **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.00** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **12.00** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **1.00 Film:** Are We There Yet? (2005) Family comedy, starring Ice Cube. **4.40 Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. (1971) Musical fantasy, with Gene Wilder.

6.40 5 News Weekend.

6.45 Film: Spider-Man. (2002) A clumsy teenager develops superhuman powers after a genetically engineered spider bites him. At first his fantastic skills delight him, but his elation is severely tempered by a family tragedy, prompting him to dedicate his talents to combating evil. However, he faces a baptism of fire in the form of crazed villain the Green Goblin. Comic-book superhero adventure, with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, Willem Dafoe, James Franco and Rosemary Harris.

9.00 Film: Olympus Has Fallen. (2013) Premiere. A secret service operative is dismissed from duty after a tragic accident. As he prepares to leave his assignment, terrorists take control of the White House and hold the president hostage. The agent is trapped in the building, and uses his inside knowledge to rescue the head of state. Action thriller, starring Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman.

11.15 Film: Gamer. (2009) A convict is forced to take part in a violent real-life video game using mind-control technology, but plans to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Michael C Hall.

1.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** TBA. **4.00** House Doctor. A cottage with too many personal touches. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Film: Puss in Boots: The Three Diablos (2012) **7.10** B.O.B.'s Big Break **7.25** Megamind: The Button of Doom **7.40** Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death **8.10 Film:** Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) **10.00** Tatau **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **11.50** Family Guy **12.15** Tatau **12.55** Meth and Madness in Mexico: Stacey Dooley Investigates **1.55** Bluestone 42 **2.25** TBA **2.40** Tatau **3.20** Killer Magic **3.50** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Horizon: Seeing Stars **8.00** Voyager: To the Final Frontier **9.00** Do We Really Need the Moon? **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Biggest Band Break Ups and Make Ups **11.30** More Dangerous Songs: And the Banned Played On **12.30** Tubular Bells: The Mike Oldfield Story **1.30** Horizon: Seeing Stars **2.30** Voyager: To the Final Frontier **3.30** The Sky at Night **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.35 Take Me Out **12.45** Scorpion **1.45 Film:** Honey (2003) **3.40 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.35** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00 Film:** The Back-up Plan (2010) **10.10 Film:** The Bourne Identity (2002) **12.30 Film:** Almost Married (2014)

ITV3

11.20 A Touch of Frost **1.30** Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **3.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.45** Inspector Morse **8.00** Inside Asprey: Luxury by Royal Appointment **9.00 Film:** Gosford Park (2001) **11.50 Film:** Angela's Ashes (1999) **2.30** The John Thaw Story **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

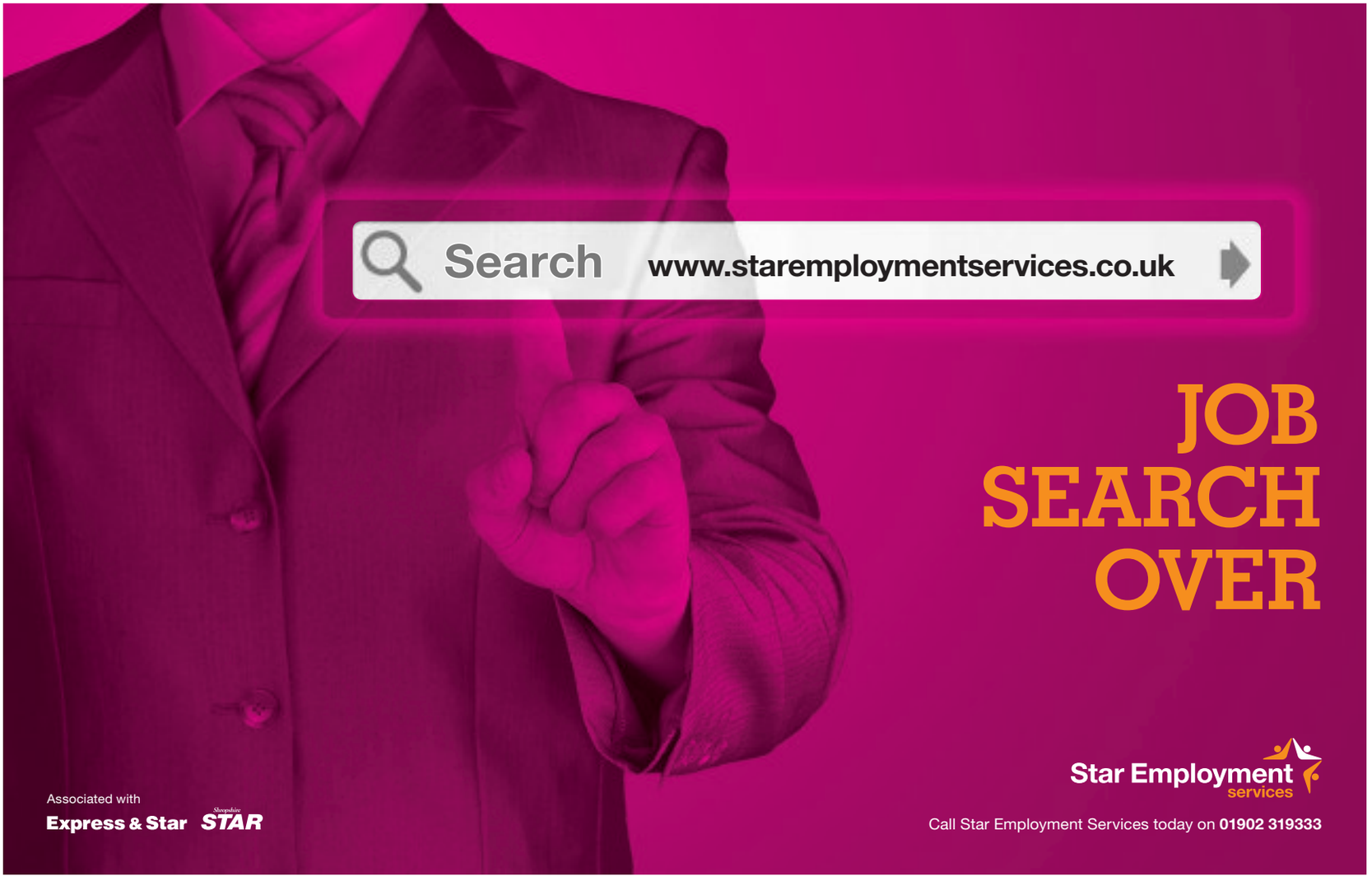
11.05 Shed and Buried **12.05** Pawn Stars **3.50 Film:** The Appaloosa (1966) **5.55 Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Mars Attacks! (1996) **11.10 Film:** Doom (2005) **1.15** Hell on Wheels

E4

12.00 Revenge **1.00** TBA **2.55** Rude(ish) Tube Short **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** TBA **10.00** Rude Tube **11.00** Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos **12.00** The 100 **1.00** 2 Broke Girls **1.30** Rules of Engagement **2.30** Melissa & Joey **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 TBA **1.00** Laputa: Castle in the Sky (1986) **3.35** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **5.15** Inspector Gadget (1999) **6.55** Drillbit Taylor (2008) **9.00** Transporter 3 (2008) **11.05** Copycat (1995) **1.30** The Wind Rises (2013) **3.30** Close



FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Vantage Point, Channel 5, 10.55pm
An assassination attempt is made on the life of the US president during a terrorism summit. The story unfolds from several perspectives, including that of the secret service agents charged with protecting the head of state, a news producer covering the event and a man in the crowd who may have caught the perpetrator on camera. Thriller, starring Dennis Quaid, Matthew Fox and William Hurt. (2008)

TUESDAY
Moonlight Mile, BBC1, 11.35pm
A man who is distraught after his fiancee's murder goes to stay with her parents, while they sort out her belongings and cancel the wedding arrangements. However, he feels guilt and suffers more emotional turmoil when he starts to fall for another woman. Drama set in the 1970s, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Ellen Pompeo and Dustin Hoffman. (2002)

Vantage Point, Monday, Channel 5, 10.55pm

WEDNESDAY
Wild Hogs, BBC1, 11.15pm
Four friends going through midlife crises decide to dust off their old motorcycles and hit the open road on a 2,000-mile cross-country trip. However, a run-in with a biker gang disrupts their carefree adventure. Comedy, starring Tim Allen. (2007)

THURSDAY
Look Again, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman survives an encounter in her home with a masked intruder, who murders her partner. The police quickly apprehend a suspect, but she believes they have arrested someone innocent. When she meets her friend's new man, she becomes convinced he is the real killer. Thriller, starring Morena Baccarin. (2011)

FRIDAY
Sex Drive, Channel 4, 12.20am
Sex-starved teenager Ian meets a woman on the internet who agrees to relieve him of his virginity. To reach his date with destiny, he steals his brother's car and embarks on a disastrous trip across America, accompanied by his womanising friend and the girl of his dreams. Comedy, starring Josh Zuckerman. (2008)

The day of execution arrives for Tommy

So far, 2015 is shaping up to be a good year for period dramas, whether it's BBC Two's prestigious adaptation of Wolf Hall, or viewers swooning over the shirtless scything action in Poldark.

Banished, which follows the first prisoners sent to Australia in 1788 and their battle to survive, hasn't made quite so many headlines. However, as we reach the final episode this week, it has offered plenty of drama and, as you'd expect given its premise and the fact that it was written by Cracker creator Jimmy McGovern, plenty of grit.

Actor Julian Rhind-Tutt, who stars as convict Tommy Barrett, certainly seems glad that Banished hasn't gone in for the pristine costumes and sweeping romance of some other dramas – for a start, it meant he was cast again type.

He's explains: "It was a very interesting opportunity to play a convict. Tommy is more of a manly man than any role I've had the chance to play recently. I've been playing aristocratic people, politicians, advisors, people like that. But Sita [Williams], our producer who I worked with 15 years ago kindly remembered that there are other areas that we might like to explore, and so she thought it would be interesting for me to have a look at Tommy Barrett."

In fact it seems just being on the set was an education: "I read that they sent these 700-odd people and 300 soldiers out to Australia with only six scythes. And with that they were expected to start their own agricultural community. There is, of course, a valid historical opinion that the authorities didn't really care that much about what happened to them.

"But what struck me most often as I stood on the set – surrounded by only a small collection of tawdry canvas tents and the most basic amenities to survive - was how swiftly and miraculously today's modern metropolis of Sydney has evolved."

Rhind-Tutt even picked up a few new survival skills of his own to put on his CV. He says: "To a full driving licence and scuba diving I'll be adding 'axe work' – I had excellent training from some real Australian men, and I can now split kindling wood with some degree of efficiency.

"I can also say I have worked with leeches. It's the moment where they actually suck the blood and engorge themselves that you have to get over psychologically, but I tried it in good heart as part of our many adventures there."

But will he get to put those skills to use if Banished comes back for a second series?

It's not looking promising, as Tommy shares a tender embrace with his wife Elizabeth on the morning of his hanging. They are aware it could be their last moments together, but not everyone is ready to give up hope, as James Freeman pleads with the Governor to spare his friend's life, and the Reverend Johnson prevails upon Private Buckley to forgive his attacker. However, it's Spragg who's taking the most direct action as he fires up the convicts to make it clear how they feel about the execution…

David Wenham stars in Banished, BBC2, Thursday, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Inside Harley Street
BBC2, 9pm
Film-maker Vanessa Engle is known for making insightful slice-of-life documentaries focusing on everything from dog-walkers and slimmers to orthodox Jews, feminism and people's incomes - always, she approaches her subjects in the same non-judgmental manner, which seems to put people at ease. That's ideal for this new three-part series shining a light on the supposedly exclusive world of private medical care, where she finds not only patients who are wealthy, but also others whose care is paid for by foreign governments or in some cases by charities. It seems that the people who frequent central London's famous street and its surrounding health facilities don't always fit the stereotype of rich, image-conscious celebs.

Code of a Killer
ITV, 9pm
The main suspect is released to a storm of controversy, and with the killer of the two schoolgirls still at large, Baker proposes the ambitious plan of testing the blood of every male in the area between the ages of 18 and 34 - the world's first DNA manhunt. But he and Jeffreys face huge opposition from sceptics within the police and the community, as well as the establishment. Can they get everyone to believe in the science? David Threlfall and John Simm star in the conclusion of the two-part drama.

TUESDAY
Live UEFA Champions League
ITV, 7.30pm
Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the quarter-final first-leg match at the Estadio Vicente Calderon, as the Spanish rivals meet in a repeat of last season's final. Real won on that occasion and are ahead of Atletico in the La Liga standings, but they have come off second best in meetings between the two this season, with the hosts having beaten Carlo Ancelotti's men twice in the league and in the Copa del Rey. Mark Pougatch presents, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Andy Townsend, and analysis by Paul Scholes, Roy Keane and Lee Dixon.

WEDNESDAY
The Delivery Man
ITV, 9.30pm
New series. Comedy starring Darren Boyd as a disillusioned policeman who leaves his job to train as a midwife on a busy maternity ward. Finding himself in a predominately female world, Matthew is soon joined by best pal and ex-cop Ian (Paddy McGuinness), who is hired as the hospital's security guard. In the first episode, a teenage dad tries to visit his pregnant girlfriend without her parents finding out his identity, and new boy Matthew must decide whose side to take. Co-starring Fay Ripley, Alex Macqueen, Aisling Bea and Llewella Gideon.

The Delivery Man, Wednesday, ITV, 9.30pm

THURSDAY
The Secret Life of the Pub
Channel 4, 10pm
It's been a tough few years for the pub industry – something that's been blamed on everything from cheap supermarket alcohol to the smoking ban – but it seems that despite it all, the local boozer still remains an institution, with the average British man spending a year and a half of his life propping up the bar. But apart from drinking, just what to do they there? Is it all soul-searching and slanging matches, as the soaps would have you believe, or is banter the order of the day? This documentary rigs the Lord Nelson in London's East End with cameras to find out what the men, including old mates Cudge and Dodds and city boys Joel and George really talk about when women are not around.

FRIDAY
Secrets of Great British Castles
Channel 5, 8pm
For thousands of kids each year, Warwick Castle is a great excuse for a day trip from school. Get beyond the stuff some of us remember from our youth, and there's a lot more to this magnificent edifice than meets the eye, as historian Dan Jones reveals in this episode. For centuries it was a poisoned chalice to the Earls of Warwick who resided there, and its walls reverberate with stories of bloodshed, betrayal, murder and financial ruin. In 1068, a castle was built on the site by William the Conqueror, but 200 years later, the Beauchamp family turned it into the lavish stone fortress that still stands today. Dan sees for himself the incredible wealth and power the Beauchamps had during their 150-year dynasty.

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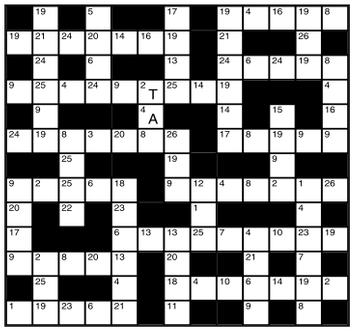
BRAIN GYM No.320

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



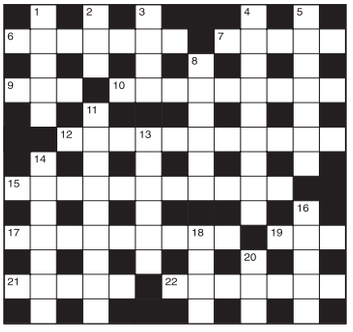
1	14
2 T	15
3	16
4 A	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	S	W	V	M	I	J	N	Q	X	H	O	K
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	U	C	A	L	Z	T	Y	G	D	P	F	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Sarcastic, witty fellow? (7)
7. Companies producing manuscript on tree (5)
9 & 2Dn. Not times past for the Poles? (3,3)
10. For example, rogue is out to be shocking (9)
12. Finished everywhere in company (3,4,4)
15. Point vessel out to fellow in skilful display (11)
17. Doctor hasn't got a smoothing tool or a flying machine (9)
19. Became master of 16 without me (3)
21. Again a manuscript takes lots of paper (5)
22. Wet seen to remove bitterness (7)

Down

1. A thumping good drinker? (5)
2. See 9 Across
3. Cosy now weapons have been put up (4)
4. Be untruthful during delay and prepare to ambush (3,2,4)
5. Sums of money required because horse put inside (7)
8. They may currently show consumption (6)
11. Do they light underground tunnels? (4-5)
13. Ring to recover by word of mouth (6)
14. Marksman could well be hot and sore (7)
16. Portent to the west for humans (5)
18. Creature went wrong... (4)
20. ...became fresh, having lost tail (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Scorn (7)
7. Handed out (5)
9. Embrace (3)
10. Agree (9)
12. Deceive (11)
15. Piercing (11)
17. Competitor (9)
19. Wager (3)
21. Happening (5)
22. Opposed (7)

Down

1. Ill-feeling (5)
2. Strange (3)
3. Quoit (4)
4. Repulsive (9)
5. Pacify (7)
8. Top (6)
11. Amusing (9)
13. Leap (6)
14. Go round (7)
16. Stop (5)
18. Rim (4)
20. Excavate (3)

Sudoku

3	7		2		4		5	8
						9		
		6		8		4		
9			1		6			5
	6			5		7		
4			8		7			3
		5		6		3		
	3							6
6	9		7		3		2	1

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	4	7	1	8	2	3	9	6
1	2	6	5	3	9	4	7	8
9	3	8	7	4	6	2	1	5
4	1	5	9	7	8	6	3	2
3	8	2	6	5	1	7	4	9
7	6	9	4	2	3	8	5	1
2	9	4	3	6	5	1	8	7
6	7	1	8	9	4	5	2	3
8	5	3	2	1	7	9	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Radiolocation; 8 Distance; 9 Edge; 10 Gallic; 12 Nature; 14 Second; 16 Docile; 18 Flat; 20 Impolite; 22 Making believe. Down: 1 Badinage; 2 Pistol; 3 Plan; 4 Screened; 5 Street; 6 Long; 11 Codlings; 13 Relative; 15 Obtain; 17 Collie; 19 Lead; 21 Peer. QUICK - Across: 7 Reprehensible; 8 Momentum; 9 Gate; 10 Veneer; 12 Career; 14 Stream; 16 Leader; 18 Chic; 20 Magician; 22 Comprehension. Down: 1 Redolent; 2 Grieve; 3 Shut; 4 Inimical; 5 Linger; 6 Clot; 11 Remember; 13 Elevator; 15 Escape; 17 Accuse; 19 Hoop; 21 Glen.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which Athenian philosopher died by drinking Hemlock?
2. What nationality was Christopher Columbus?
3. What is the lagest city in Tanzania?
4. Which Tudor warship is in a dry dock in Portsmouth?
5. What was the main river of Hades in Greek mythology?
6. Who created Maigret?
7. What sort of creature is an axolotl?
8. Who was the first woman MP to sit in the House of Commons?
9. Where did Davy Crockett die?
10. Who wrote The Murders in the Rue Morgue?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Providence; 2 John Stuart Mill; 3 Herman Melville; 4 John Candy; 5 Gunmetal; 6 Eleanor of Aquitaine; 7 Hyde Park; 8 Council; 9 Ash Wednesday; 10 Alaska.

Niner: MANDIBLES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7983 gives a bird,
62185 gives another bird,
7654 gives an animal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Thur 16 Apr. 19.05-20.05. 12 wks. £42.00
Thur 16 Apr. 20.10-21.10. 12 wks. £42.00

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Two days departing July 11 and 12

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- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Chatsworth House and the Peak District

Two days departing June 28

PRICE FROM £95

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- Tour of the Peak District
- Evening entertainment
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Two days departing June 27

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- Visit to Chester
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Isle of Wight and Osborne House

Four days departing June 26

PRICE FROM £269

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- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Osborne House
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The Railway Children at York Railway Museum

Three days departing August 14

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- Return coach travel
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- Ticket for the matinee performance of The Railway Children *(upgrade offered)*
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- Free time in York and Haworth
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- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Norfolk Gardens and The Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 3

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- Entrance to Sandringham House and Gardens
- Entrance to Bressingham Gardens
- Visit to Cambridge
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing June 26, September 18

PRICE FROM £219

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- Optional North Yorkshire Moors Railway excursion
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André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in Maastricht

Three days departing July 4 and 10

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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Stunning five-bed home available for £249,900

THIS immaculately refurbished stunning five-bedroomed semi-detached property in Moat Road, Oldbury has been finished to an extremely high specification, including a speaker system and CCTV. It is on the market for £249,900.

It has an entrance porch with spotlights and tiled flooring, an entrance hall with spotlights, laminate flooring and stairs off, a lounge with laminate flooring and oak double doors to a new kitchen/diner with soft close units and granite working surfaces, under floor heating, laminated and tiled flooring, double doors to the garden, a five-ring gas hob with extractor above and marble splash back, an electric oven and grill, space for an American-style fridge freezer, central island unit with coloured mood effect lighting above, mood effect lighting to base units, utility, downstairs shower room, five bedrooms and a bathroom, shower room and rear garden.

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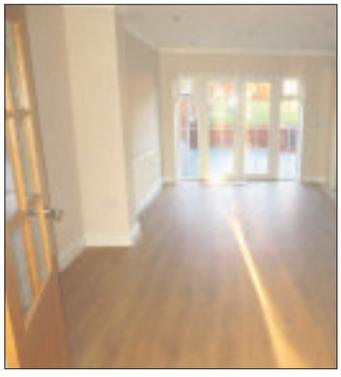

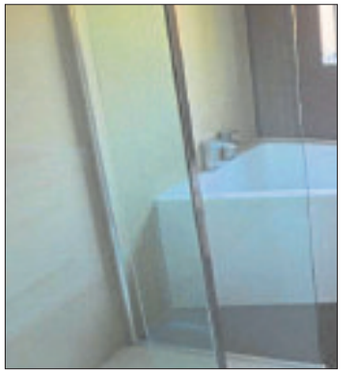

Deceptively spacious well-presented home

A WELL-PRESENTED, improved and deceptively spacious extended semi-detached home in a cul-de-sac, 37 Leslie Road, Tividale is an ideal first time purchase.

It is for sale through Braithwaites at £124,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, an entrance hall with laminate flooring, a spacious through lounge/dining area, with patio doors and laminate flooring, extended kitchen with a dining area with part tiled/part laminate flooring, three bedrooms with laminate flooring and a bathroom with a bath with a shower and a front and rear garden.

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An Express & Star supplement

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This hybrid is a great choice

By Graham Breeze

It's little wonder that Slimming World, the weight loss organisation, has bought a fleet of Lexus hybrids – expect many more companies to follow suit.

The company recently signed a deal to provide 76 cars for its managers, the largest solus fleet agreement yet secured by Lexus. You can expect many more companies to recognise the benefits of driving the IS 300h with low emissions, lower fuel bills, reduced road tax along with luxury performance.

There's a growing movement among British businesses to embrace hybrid as the common sense choice for their vehicle fleets and this Lexus ticks all the boxes.

Today's companies are recognising the benefit-in-kind company car tax rates as a priority when making a buying choice and Lexus is proving its hybrid models have the reliability and long-lasting quality to keep costs down.

And if we needed more convincing about the qualities of this Lexus it couldn't have come from a better place with the canny Association of Scottish Motoring Writers naming the model as Executive Car Of The Year.

Launched in 2013, the latest IS displays the cutting edge styling that sets today's Lexus models apart from the crowd. Now hybrid technology delivers higher efficiency, impressive reliability and lower tax and fuel bills.

So why exactly is everyone raving about this model?

It simply makes sense for the fleet buyer with a top speed of 125mph, 0-62mph in 8.3secs, 64.2mpg, CO2 emissions of only 103g/km, benefit in kind levels at 13%, insurance group levels at 32E and a price tag of only £30,995.

The IS300h is a stunning looking car too, standing on 17" alloys and I particularly like the LED daytime running lights and HID bi-xenon headlamps.

There's a new and attractive cockpit where you quickly feel at home with comfortable seating up front and ample room for six footers in the back – though you wouldn't want to travel as a middle seat passenger in the rear.

You also get 60-40 split-folding rear seats and the IS 300h has a massive boot space.

'This Lexus is a joy to drive with firmed up suspension and is a great motorway cruiser, shutting out nearly every whisper of noise.'

There's all the technology you need as standard on this model. You get drive mode select, cruise control, smart entry and start, sound control, six-speaker audio system, 7" multimedia screen with remote dial control, rear view camera, Bluetooth, USB ports, dusk-sensing headlights, rain-sensing wipers and all-round parking sensors.

You also get all the safety measures you would expect from a luxury performer. There's driver and passenger front, side and knee airbags; curtain airbags, ABS, Vehicle Stability Control, traction control, hill start assist and tyre pressure warning.

This Lexus is a joy to drive with firmed up suspension and is a great motorway cruiser, shutting out nearly every whisper of wind and road noise and running near- silently on electric only power in town traffic.

Audi and BMW provide most of the competition in the segment but Toyota aren't targeting massive sales from their luxury Lexus brand and with a few more deals like Slimming World's will soon be popping the champagne corks.

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Autonomous driving now even closer

By James Parker

Autonomous driving has been much in the news recently but it's nothing new – Mercedes-Benz have been developing it for years.

The marque has demonstrated a commitment to autonomous driving for 30 years and now an autonomous future is closer than it has ever been before with a range of semi-autonomous technology available across the line-up.

This semi-autonomous technology – under the banner 'Intelligent Drive' – is available across the range from C-Class to S-Class.

Examples include DISTRONIC PLUS with Steering Assist and Stop&Go Pilot – the vehicle automatically brakes and accelerates based on the car in front and can even follow the car ahead without any steering input from the driver, whilst Active Parking Assist with PARKTRONIC helps detect suitable parking spaces and can automatically manoeuvre the vehicle into the space.

While this technology brings Mercedes one step closer to an autonomous future this mobility revolution has to take place in a series of steps.

Despite this Mercedes-Benz has demonstrated autonomous driving capabilities since 1985 with the EUREKA-PROMETHEUS research project, S 500 INTELLIGENT DRIVE and F 015 Luxury in Motion.

1985

Daimler-Benz and a group of European Manufacturers kick-started the research into autonomous cars with the EUREKA-PROMETHEUS research project (Project for European Traffic with Highest Efficiency and Unprecedented Safety).

The project – over an eight-year period – addressed issues surrounding the future of mobility and suggested ways to improve vehicle safety, efficiency and traffic flow. The result was the VITA-vehicle (Vision Technology Application) which used miniature video cameras behind the front and rear windscreens to capture the traffic around the vehicle enabling it to brake, accelerate and steer accordingly. The origins of a broad range of innovations, such as lane-change, parking assistance and navigation systems can all be traced back to this research project.

1995

An S-Class prototype test vehicle –equipped with an early supercomputer – travelled from Munich to Copenhagen almost entirely autonomously on motorways and was able to change lanes, overtake and keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.

As a result of this prototype in 1998 Distronic adaptive cruise control entered production in the S-Class. From this technology Mercedes-Benz was able to develop a succession of assistance systems capable of detecting hazardous situations, warning the driver and intervening.

2010

A broad range of driver assistance system were introduced in 2010 – now under the banner 'Intelligent Drive' – enabling vehicles to detect many hazardous situations and react as the situation demands. This includes; Collision Prevention Assist – standard across the range, Active Blind Spot Assist – the system detects a vehicle in the driver's blind spot and, by means of one-sided braking can reduce the risk of collision, Active Lane Keeping Assist – which works with ESP to pull the vehicle back into its lane if the driver unintentionally crosses the lane marking and Active Parking Assist – which uses electromechanical direct steering to navigate the vehicle into a parking space.

2013

In 2013, Mercedes-Benz demonstrated that autonomous driving is already possible, even in complex traffic. The close-to-production Mercedes-Benz S 500 INTELLIGENT DRIVE completed a 62-mile journey from Mannheim to Pforzheim fully autonomously using production-based sensors – following the route taken in 1888 by Bertha Benz on the first ever long-distance car journey.

2015

With the F 015 Luxury in Motion (Pictured above in San Fransico), Mercedes-Benz demonstrates what form 'Intelligent Drive' might take in the future.

The car's role is evolving from merely a means of transport towards a comfortable place for passengers to utilise their new-found free time. The electric-hybrid system has a total range of 684-miles and can operate in manual or autonomous modes.

The driver is connected to the outside world via a choice of six screens integrated throughout the interior, controlled via eye-tracking, gesture recognition or touch. This autonomous concept car is based on a future scenario – 'Vision 2030+' – where the already limited space in today's cities becomes more restricted and autonomous driving is socially accepted.

A major part of everyday trips will be covered in autonomous mode – creating a new driving culture – freeing up time for the driver and creating a retreat for passengers.

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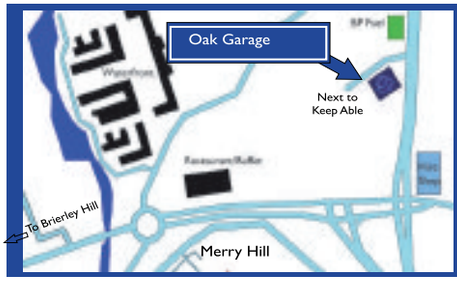

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QUALCAST CLASSIC Electric 30 lawnmower, changeable scarifier cassette, excellent condition £85. 07891 760689.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

RECORDS/CDS WANTED & SOLD Cash paid.Vinyl Shop,5a Cleveland Street, WV1 3HL. 07760 168972.

WORK SHOP SALE bench band saw £75, circular saw £60, 6" planer £70. 07792 746976.

items wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
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MAMOD STEAM Engines/ Trains wanted all conditions/ descriptions, Dinky,Corgi Spot-on diecast vehicles. 01902 745598.

WANTED: AIR RIFLES, Air Pistols and accessories by Collector. Cash waiting, Will collect. Will pay up to £200. Call 07973 303965.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

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Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
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specialists at your service

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Work Guaranteed
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building services

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OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
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electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

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SPECIAL OFFER
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PREMIER ROOFING New Roofs, Repairs, Facias & Gutters. Call: 0121 532 7601or 07875 387445.

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Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices.
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Single items,
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Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

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Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

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All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

DOGUE DE BORDEAUX, 11 months old, full pedigree, £500. Genuine sale. 07947 574131.

JACK RUSSELL Puppies, 8 weeks old, Mom and Dad can be seen, small legs, £200. 01384 233910.

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vets

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So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY and Taxation services for Small Businesses. Fixed fees. Call 01902 343200

commercial premises

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Subject to terms

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- No fees
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we can buy your house in 2 days

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WE PAY MORE

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*subject to terms

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pink run by women

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- Any condition
- No fees - fast completion

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Cash paid for your property
Guaranteed offer*
Free solicitors - no fees*

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Call any time

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Best Price
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6 Property

properties wanted

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BILSTON 3/4 bed house, DG, CH, fitted kitchen, total refurb, Dss welcome. Call 07870 671587.

DUDLEY/OLDBURY/Blackheath 1-2 Bed Flat/House, Rent/Dep neg. 0121 550 0064 / 07970 980955.

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coast & country

THREE BED HOLIDAY LODGE
Near Welshpool, refurbed, site fees paid till 2016, prime position on lake, own fishing peg, swimming pool, tennis court, club house.
£57,000 ono,
For further details call 07727 408770 or 01568 612391.

houses for sale

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overseas property

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ClassifiedAds

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8 Motoring

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FORD FIESTA Titanium, 1400 diesel, 62 plate, silver, FSH, 65,000 miles, £6,500. 07875 284244.

HONDA ACCORD 2.0 SE. 55, FSH, 45k miles, 2 owners, ice blue, new MoT. Exceptional throughout. Any inspection. £3,750. 07976 479761.

HYUNDAI GETZ 1.1, 2006, 60,000 miles, silver, fsh, MoT, very good condition, 5 door, lady owned, £2,250. 07522 475039.

NISSAN MICRA 08, 22k, beige, lady owner, 12months MoT, FSH, Park Sensors, Alloys, Immaculate, Ideal 1st Car. N/C. £3,995. o.n.o. 07855 513041.

VW PASSAT HIGHLINE 2.0 ESTATE
Metallic Grey, 54 plate, manual, petrol, 75k miles, MoT 11/15, black leather interior, CD, AC, heated seats, alloys, boot cover, EW, VW Service history, immaculate.
Bargain £2,400
07548 948776

NISSAN MICRA 1.2, 53, reg, 5dr, silver, 62,000 miles, 12 months MoT, very good condition, £1,595 ono. 07772 007913.

PEUGEOT 407 Swing, auto Executive, diesel, 48,000 miles, 55 reg, excellent condition, £3,750. 07792 746976.

VW POLO 1.2S
2003, 03 plate, 5-dr hatchback, petrol, 85.6k, CD, aircon, FSH, good clean, new clutch.
£1,750.
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cars under £1500

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Very good condition.
£675
075979 60815.

FORD ESCORT GHIA 1.6 1995, 5dr hatch, 25,000 miles from new MoT one of the best out there. £1,500. 01922 646437 / 07932 084639.

FORD KA 2006, 75,000 miles, MoT Sept, any trial, silver, all MoT's shown. £825 ono. 01902 655467.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6 PETROL
53 plate, 5 doors, sun yellow, black interior, stereo, alloy wheels, Sun roof.
MoT December 2015. FSH.
Air Con. Electrics.
Very nice condition.
lady owner.
£1,250.
07462 428888.

HONDA CRV LS, 1999, 6 months MoT, sunroof, towbar, 90,000 miles, good condition, £975. 01902 838800.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1100CC 53 reg., MoT Aug, excellent runner, tidy condition, ideal 1st car. £595. 07984 297114.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.6, 03 plate, 70k, good condition. New Cam belt and water pump, genuine reason for sale. £975 ono. 07933 918920.

ROVER 400 spares or repair, 5 months MoT, 56,000 miles, good engine, needs back exhaust, £295. 07968 081249.

ROVER 420 SALOON 1999, 70,000 miles, blue, electric windows, AC, FSH, MoT 6 months, PAS, diesel, alloys, CD. £895 ono 01384 213454

ROVER 75 Club, diesel, 2002, 79,000 miles, 3 months MoT, burgundy, EW, CD, CL, 5-dr, good condition. £900. 07956 141704.

ROVER METRO KENSINGTON 100 1995, 26,000 miles, FSH, excellent runner, MoT. £395. 07906 475906.

SUZUKI JIMNY JLX 1298CC W Reg., 88,600 miles, MoT Sept 2015, £1,000 ono. 07971 279968.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 3dr, hatch, 2002, MoT June, blue, petrol, 128k, 4 former keepers, excellent runner, £800 ono. 07974 264128.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0
1999, petrol, manual, red, MoT 01/16, Stereo, 3 doors, well maintained, drives superb
£590
07985 551666.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 SXi CDTi Diesel, 2004, black, e/w, radio, cd, MoT'd, service history, alloys. £1,200 ono. 07954 419531.

VAUXHALL VECTRA Club, red, 1.8, petrol, 02 reg, 5-dr hatch, full MoT, 77k, EW, radio CD, part service history, £750 ono. 07979 784585.

VW SHARAN R reg, 1998, 1.9TDi, five months MoT, £550. Few problems call for details. 07717 373236.

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Instant cash settlement.
Any age. any condition.
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01902 580065
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motorbikes

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HONDA SILVER WING 600cc scooter, 2009 Reg., 10,500 miles, full MoT, immaculate condition, £3,499. o.n.o. 07877 722908.

HONDA VFR800 1998, 18,000 miles, silver, good condition, £1500. No offers. 01384 864058.

SCOOTER 125CC
Pulse Light speed, 64 plate, 1043 miles, blue and silver as new, 2 services,
4 yrs manufacturers warranty
£750.00 ono
Telephone 07752 427304

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ANYTHING CONSIDERED, FREE COLLECTION WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
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vehicles wanted

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Buyer could call.
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mobile mechanics

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
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or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

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Making Friends

Women seeking men

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PRETTY slim female, 48, N/S, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416727**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

DAWN attractive, easygoing, and dazzling, WLTM well built mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416917**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty cuvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. **Tel No: 0905 002 1953 Box No: 410291**

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 409901**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

TARA, confident lady, long legs, long hair, seeks a saucy man of any age for daytime, no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1913 Box No: 414701**

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861**

SUSAN 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801**

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707**

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707**

PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. ACA **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521**

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. s **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416519**

BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth black woman, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499**

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTM attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299**

SHELLY 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235**

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057**

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087**

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085**

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416083**

Men seeking women

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MALE 57, seeking female, any age/looks for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416779**

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481**

VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, professional, seeks N/S lady for fun, friendship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309157**

MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148**

MALE 60, N/S, average looks, black hair, likes meals out, seeks female, 50-70, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383425**

TALL, dark, slim, attractive guy, 48, seeks attractive female for no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 299904**

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713**

TALL, dark, attractive guy 50, seeks attractive, tactile female for fun, excitement and lots of attention. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 314219**

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MALE young 62, medium build, likes sports, golf, holidays, food, beer, seeks lady for nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416643**

KEV 49, dark hair, blue eyes, average build, seeks female, any age for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384372**

52YR old male, dark hair, blue eyes, average build, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and romance, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391199**

54YR old male, dark hair, blue eyes, average build, likes nights in/out, seeking similar female, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416747**

MALE young 62, medium build, likes sports, golf, holidays, food, beer, seeks lady for nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416643**

GLYNN 49, young looking, seeks black female, 21-30 for loving relationship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416603**

STEVEN 64, WLTM princess to see if the frog kiss really works, caring, considerate, N/S preferred. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416417**

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481**

BLUE eyed male, black hair, 6ft 4ins, likes football, nights out, farming, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416341**

PAUL 56, works part time, seeking nice lady, 55-65 with GSOH, honest, genuine and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416017**

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HALESOWEN'S worrying run of games without a win stretched to 12 to send them into the Evo-Stik Premier derby with Stourbridge in poor form.

The Yeltz failed to create many chances against a team who are well within reach of the play-offs.

The first half was a dour affair, with few opportunities for either side to score, though Aaron Lloyd, starting his first game for Halesowen, saw an under-hit shot saved which was one of the few highlights of the first part of the match.

For Blyth, Michael Richardson was called into action and produced a save from a Sam Pearson shot on goal.

Pearson also produced an excellent stop from Dan Maguire as he continued to impress in the first period.

Maguire went close again early in the second half when he collected a loose ball midway inside the Yeltz half and burst forward but fired past Pearson's far post.

Spartans began to dictate play and took the lead on the hour when Maguire was brought down in the area by Curtis Tilt and Stephen Turnbull converted the penalty.

Richardson hit the top of the crossbar with 20 minutes remaining but on 76 minutes he made no mistake when set up by Maguire who did the hard work in the build up.

Iyseden Christie did bring some relief for the Yeltz when he got Halesowen's consolation late on with a brilliantly curling free-kick after Danny Bragoli had been fouled.

Bank Holiday brings Five games

THE first of Stourbridge Chess Club's(SCC) five matches in the week were played on Monday.

The Birmingham league Div 1 team were completing their season with a match against Solihull with both teams mid-table. The Wolverhampton league Div 2 team were hosting Bushbury, who still had something to play for as they were fighting relegation.

There was a last minute substitution in the Birmingham league team when junior Dan Arkell stepped up to take the place of an unavailable Stourbridge player. Arkell played solidly only to lose on time in a level position. Board 5 Greg Dyett then drew. Meanwhile on board 1 Keith Arkell went into an endgame a doubled pawn ahead. He gradually increased his advantage which culminated in him queening a pawn and his opponent's resignation.

Jeremy Fallowfield had a slight advantage in a tight position as did his father Nic.

Nick Arkell got off to a bad start against Welsh international Olivia Smith but played an excellent endgame to salvage a draw.

Nic Fallowfield's advantage grew and his opponent resigned. Unfortunately, Jeremy Fallowfield's position deteriorated. He was forced to give up a knight for a pawn and subsequently resigned making the match result 3-3.

Stourbridge finish the Birmingham league Div 1 season with the respectable record of won 4, drawn 4, lost 4. The exact mid-table position is still to be determined by other teams who have matches remaining.

In the Wolverhampton league match, SCC got off to a good start with Dave Scriven, Steve Jukes, Jet Ajimal and Steve Alcock quickly gaining an advantage.

Ajimal and Alcock quickly converted this to a win but Jukes could only draw. This was followed by a comfortable win for Dave Scriven to give Stourbridge the match. Sam Bradley went into the quick play finish with a significant advantage which he converted into a win .

Wrens' run of victories seems to be unstoppable

Wem Town 2 Wrens Nest 5

WRENS Nest continued their great run in West Midlands League Division 1 with another definite win, this time over Shropshire side Wem.

They came away from Wem Town with a great result to continue their push up the League table.

Wrens Nest took the lead after five minutes when Stuart Hillman lobbed the Wem keeper.

Wem Town equalised after 22 minutes after a great through ball to Shaun Butler who ran through and scored.

Wrens Nest took the lead almost straight from the kick off following great work by Todd Warner who ran through and scored from a great pass from Joe Lawley.

Stuart Hillman was then fouled in the penalty box after 40 minutes and got up and duly slotted home the spot kick.

Wrens Nest were still not finished and were awarded a free kick outside the penalty box and Joe Lawley stepped up and hit a screamer from 25 yards to the top right hand corner of the goal just before the half time whistle blew.

In the second half, both teams had opportunities to score but it was Wrens Nest and Stuart Hillman who completed his hat-trick to score again after 75 minutes.

Wrens Nest then conceded a scrappy goal from a corner after 77 minutes when Dan Price reduced the arrears.

The home side battled on right up to the final whistle but the visitors ran out deserved winners.

Wrens Nest FC also have a Birmingham Saturday Vase Cup final at Ray Hall Lane on Saturday

Oldswinford's use of tactics pays off

Oldswinford (129-5) beat Enville B (98-5) by 31 runs

ENVILLE B decided to let Oldswinford do their worst and chase their total.

Oldswinford did a fair job of doing just that with Lee Nightingale taking 21 from Trevor Spears second over and then deciding his best option was retiring.

At the other end George Roberts maintained some decorum, but clearly Oldswinford were up for this match through which victory clinched the league title so batsmen went after the bowling.

Waqar Ahmed (25no) and Tom Blunt (21) were the main contributors with the blade and again a notable spell from Kate Parfitt whose three overs of flight conceded only 20.

Rhodri Parfitt (31) made his customary 25 before retiring but whilst Kate Parfitt and Alex Hale put together a partnership of 25 for the fifth wicket, otherwise Enville B found themselves a little short of batting and fell too far behind the rate.

Trophy

Having lost the title they won in 2013 to Pedmore last year, Oldswinford remain undefeated and claim back the prize and take their place in the County finals night on April 19 at RGS Worcester where they will be playing for the Granger Trophy.

Hagley (113-4) lost to Enville A (115-3) by 3

A match with nothing but pride at stake was a little relaxed at the start and Hagley found themselves 33-3 which included an unusual early exit for Joe Lennon.

Paul Morgan (40no) however batted through and added respectability to Hagley's total. Enville A also started poorly losing Matt Branch and being 19-2 after 2 overs.

Jay Wallis (25no) joined Greg Tomkins (32) to begin chasing down the scoreboard, and on Tomkins retirement Mitch Jones (28no) saved his best to last and took Enville to the brink of victory before retiring. Alex Craven was left with the pleasure of scoring the winning runs.

Final games of 2015 season are on April 13 from 8 pm. Swindon to play Pedmore B and Pedmore A play Belbroughton.

Misery for Glassboys goes on

Luke Benbow getting in on the action during the home game against Workington

Stourbridge 0 Workington 1

STOURBRIDGE'S slump continued as they lost out to third placed Workington thanks to a solitary Gavin Skelton strike.

It leaves the Glassboys with just one win in their last 14 games going into today's Evo-Stik Premier local derby with Halesowen Town.

Workington made most of the early running, Alex Newby firing meekly at Glassboys goalkeeper Dean Coleman after three minutes, while prolific striker Gareth Arnison put the ball wide of the mark moments later after Coleman had failed to hold from a corner.

But Coleman came to the rescue on 26 minutes, diving full stretch to keep out Anthony Wright before central defender Will Richards managed to scramble the ball away while Arnison closed in. Stourbridge weathered the early storm and went on to create the best chances of the half. Chris Lait had a shot deflected wide while Workington goalkeeper Jonny Jamieson pulled off a wonderful save to keep out a Leon Broadhurst header. Striker Luke Benbow then produced the miss of the match when he ballooned a shot out of the ground .

Georgia grabs a ton but can't save England

WOLVERHAMPTON all-rounder Georgia Elwiss fired a quickfire hundred but could not save England Women's Academy cricketers from defeat to Australia's 'Shooting Stars' in Dubai. Elwiss reached 100 from 80 balls as England posted 252 all out in 45 of their 50 overs. But Australia came out on top winning by four wickets with seven deliveries to spare.

Elwiss said: "We ended up 30-50 runs short of what we could have got, which was a bit annoying and probably cost us towards the end, but they batted well in the middle and took the game away from us.

"I look to play quite conservatively early on.

"I went in when we'd lost a couple of quick wickets and I knew there was still a lot of time to bat."

Red card was harsh, says Mulumbu

ALBION midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu claims his red card for elbowing QPR captain Joey Barton was harsh and insists: "I never meant to hurt anyone".

Mulumbu took to Twitter to apologise to his team-mates yesterday after he was dismissed just 11 minutes after joining the game as a substitute.

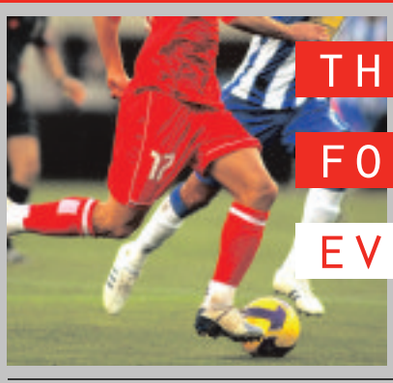
"I think it's harsh but that's how it is," said Mulumbu, who received support from Barton after the game.

"I don't know if we'll appeal. I will speak with the club but when you look at the video it's very harsh.

"I didn't make any movement to hurt anybody so we will speak with the coach and the club and see what is the best way to sort this out."

Mulumbu received support from Barton, who cleared the defender of any suggestion of a deliberate elbow.

score



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Sykes' car hits ditch in Welsh rally

STOURBRIDGE rally driver Richard Sykes had a disappointing end to Rally North Wales when his Bathams Brewery, Boroughbridge Marina, GI Sykes and Body Clinic-supported Citroën DS3 left the road on the third stage.

Sykes was using the event to gain valuable mileage in his new car ahead of starting the BTRDA Mixed Surface championship in mid-April.

The rally started with two stages in Gartheiniog forest totalling almost 14 miles.

Sykes made a steady start, ending the two stages sixth in class.

It was all to go wrong for Sykes and co-driver Emma Morrison on stage three though as they approached a corner too quickly and ended up crashing into a ditch.

"The first two stages were OK, I was gaining vital experience in the car and not pushing too hard," said Sykes.

"Unfortunately we didn't have time to recce the stages and fine tune our pace notes before the event and we paid the price for this in stage three when Emma called one of the notes too late.

"I couldn't get the car slowed in time for a corner and we went off. The car was stuck in the ditch and we couldn't get it out so that was our event over."

"It's very disappointing not to have got further, I managed to learn the car more but it would've been better to have finished.

"We've got no more time now in the car until our championship challenge starts.

"It's going to be tough to get a good result in Somerset but we'll keep trying."

The Somerset Stages will be taking place on April 18 and will be based in Minehead.

Foster's double penalty spot scores win it for Tividale

Tividale 2 Lincoln Utd 0

TWO penalties by Zach Foster gave Tividale an Evo-Stik North Division One South double over play-off contenders Lincoln United.

Tividale started the stronger on a very heavy pitch at The Beeches and were ahead after just two minutes.

Jordan Archer collected the ball on the left, raced into the Lincoln area leaving two defenders trailing and was upended by United's Matthew Cotton.

Foster stepped up to place the spot-kick wide of keeper Robert Peet's right hand.

Lincoln reacted well and Ryan Winwood had to block a powerful effort by Cotton before striker Scott Ruthuen brought down a lofted ball and struck the outside of a post.

Tividale doubled their lead on 38 minutes. Chris Field played a superb through ball to Archer who again outpaced his markers and managed to get his toe to the ball ahead of the onrushing Peet.

Once again the referee pointed to the spot and again Foster scored, this time sending his spot-kick to Peet's left.

Harris relishes shot at third title

Speedway

LUKE Harris, one of the Cradley newcomers, is relishing the prospect of pushing for a third successive league title for the club.

Harris, who commutes from his West London base for Heathens matches at Perry Barr, has found life tough in the early stages of the season.

But he insists he wants to play his part and is looking for plenty of points when they next line up against Eastbourne on Wednesday April 22.

He said: "I'm looking forward to the challenge of trying to retain the title for Cradley.

"Obviously they have done a great job to win the league the last two years, so we really want to try and make it three in a row. "It looks tough this year and we know it won't be easy, but we have some great riders in the team and we are aiming to do it again.

"Hopefully I can have a good year and play my part to help make sure Cradley are up there challenging for the title.

"I'm honoured to be riding for Cradley because it's such a big club and the fans are amazing. I'm looking forward to the season.

"Experience is obviously key in speedway, and I think the fact I'm coming into my second season in the National League should help.

"There are quite a few riders who haven't got any experience at all at this level this year, so the fact I know what to expect and know what it's about a little bit should help.

"I'm still young and still need advice and guidance myself, but I've already learnt a lot riding for Kent and with the few guest bookings I did last year.

Heathens skipper Max Clegg will take his place in the British Under 21 Final at Coventry next Tuesday, April 14.

13 IS UNLUCKY FOR GLASSBOYS

Halesowen 2 Stourbridge 0

A bumper Bank Holiday crowd of 1,748 watched Halesowen claim a deserved victory in a keenly-contested local derby.

Both mid-table sides entered the game – dubbed the No.9 derby – in indifferent form but it was Halesowen who took the bragging rights with their greater desire and team spirit in front of their best home attendance since 1991.

The Yeltz started on the front foot as a first minute throw-in from Tom Tonks was scrambled clear and an Aaron Griffiths corner was headed away strongly by Stourbridge captain Leon Broadhurst just seconds later.

As Halesowen heaped on the pressure, Ben Haseley skipped past both Broadhurst and Chris Knight and was only eventually halted by Leon Miles.

Clawed

Kris Green's seventh minute goal-bound header was then clawed away by Glassboys goalkeeper Dean Coleman from another huge Tom Tonks throw-in from the right.

Two further trademark long throw-ins from Tonks earned Halesowen their fourth corner with only 16 minutes on the clock.

After the match moved into a quieter spell, a 21st-minute shot from former Halesowen player Chris Lait was kept out of the net by home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant.

Drew Canavan struck an inviting 34th minute free-kick from the edge of the penalty area straight at the home defensive wall after Aaron Forde was penalised for fouling Benbow.

Coleman then rushed out of the Stourbridge goal to collect from Haseley and Forde's ball across the Stourbridge area was cut out.

The Yeltz continued to look full value for their half-time lead as Brian Smikle cleared two further corners, an Iyseden Christie free-kick was deflected away and Forde set up Charlton to send a 45th minute half volley wide.

Halesowen finally took a hard-earned lead after 25 minutes as Curtis Tilt broke away, only to be fouled by Luke Connolly and home captain Joe Hull powered home a close range header from Tonks' resulting free-kick.

Iyseden Christie slots home Halesowen's second goal from the penalty spot. *Pic: Dave Hawley*

Ben Haseley was then denied and Brian Smikle cleared two corners as the Yeltz continued to look full value for their half-time lead and were looking to consolidate their single goal.

Iyseden Christie doubled Halesowen's advantage from the penalty spot just five minutes into the second half .

Christie's legs were clipped by Chris Knight and he was brought down as he latched on to Haseley's square ball which was sent across the penalty area.

The Glassboys could not find any way back into the game against the determined hosts, although Lait fired over the bar after 65 minutes as the Yeltz coasted to their first victory in 13 games.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant; Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hull, Tilt, Charlton, Tonks, Christie (Lloyd 87), Haseley (Campbell 80), Bragoli. **Subs not used:** Meese, Heard, Pearson.

Stourbridge: Coleman; Canavan, Knight, Brown, Smikle, Miles, Connolly (Fitzpatrick 62), Broadhurst (c), Benbow (Morgan-Parker 68), Dodd (Hales 85), Lait. **Subs not used:** Quaynor, Williams.

Referee: Edward Smart

Tipton fight back to grab the victory

Alvechurch 2 Tipton Town 4

TIPTON Town sprung a big surprise by fighting back from a goal down to claim victory at mid-table Alvechurch in the Midlands Premier.

Town, bottom of the table, fell behind after just 12 minutes when Connor Deedes' smart header beat keeper Jack Hayfield.

Dimitri Dunkley then went close for the home side, but the visitors promptly turned the game around.

They were level on 18 minutes when Mark Ganderton worked the ball to the fleet-footed Gurjit Singh who rode two tackles before crashing his shot in off the bar.

The Lye Meadow club, several years ago, were famed for helping such luminaries as Arsenal's, Alan Smith and Wolves' David Kelly on their road to stardom with Tipton Town's player of prominence, Steve Bull, of course so there was some common ground between the two sides which invited comment before kick-off.

Tipton, solid at the back where Lucan Spittle was imperious, were by now playing with much more belief than they have generally shown in this wretched season.

They went ahead in the first minute of the second half when the effervescent Singh fired in a low ball from the right edge of the penalty area which Sean Pugh gleefully stabbed home.

Tipton then withstood a spell of home pressure before Adam Hill made it 3-1. Home skipper Michael McGrath reduced the arrears in the 78th minute, but just three minutes later Singh clinched the win by waltzing through and firing past Edwards.

The second half began with a bang.

Premier place is Jackett's focus

KENNY Jackett insists Wolves can be Premier League regulars and urges Molineux to roar his team towards the play-offs.

Jackett believes Wolves can become an established top-flight club if they force their way into the Championship play-offs and win promotion this season.

And he has challenged his side to use the Molineux support to their advantage.

He said: "It is a fantastic club which has the potential to be in the Premier League – but that doesn't make it a given that you get in there because you have to earn it in football.

"But Wolves have Premier League potential."

★★★

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